

WORLD OCEAN DAY SPECIAL!



# OCEAN STORIES







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**SCRIPT:** Sanjana Kapur

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Adarsh Achari

**EDITOR:** Reena Ittyerah Puri

### **CHURNING OF THE OCEAN**

**SCRIPT:** Toni Patel

**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Dilip Kadam

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### **MATSYA AVATAR & VARAHA AVATAR - From the Title: Dashavatar**

**SCRIPT:** Kamala Chandrakant

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### **HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE**

**SCRIPT:** Luis M. Fernandes

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# SARASWATI AND VADAVAGNI





# SARASWATI BECOMES A RIVER

ONCE, DURING A TERRIBLE BATTLE BETWEEN THE BHARGAVAS AND THE HEHAYAS\*, VADAVAGNI\* WAS BORN.



THE GODS WERE WORRIED -



THE FIRE  
WILL DESTROY  
EVERYTHING.

WE MUST DO  
SOMETHING.

SARASWATI  
CAN HELP US. YOU  
SHOULD GO TO HER  
IMMEDIATELY.

I SHALL GIVE  
HER THE VADAVAGNI,  
WHICH SHE WILL  
DEPOSIT IN THE  
OCEAN.

AS YOU  
SAY, LORD.

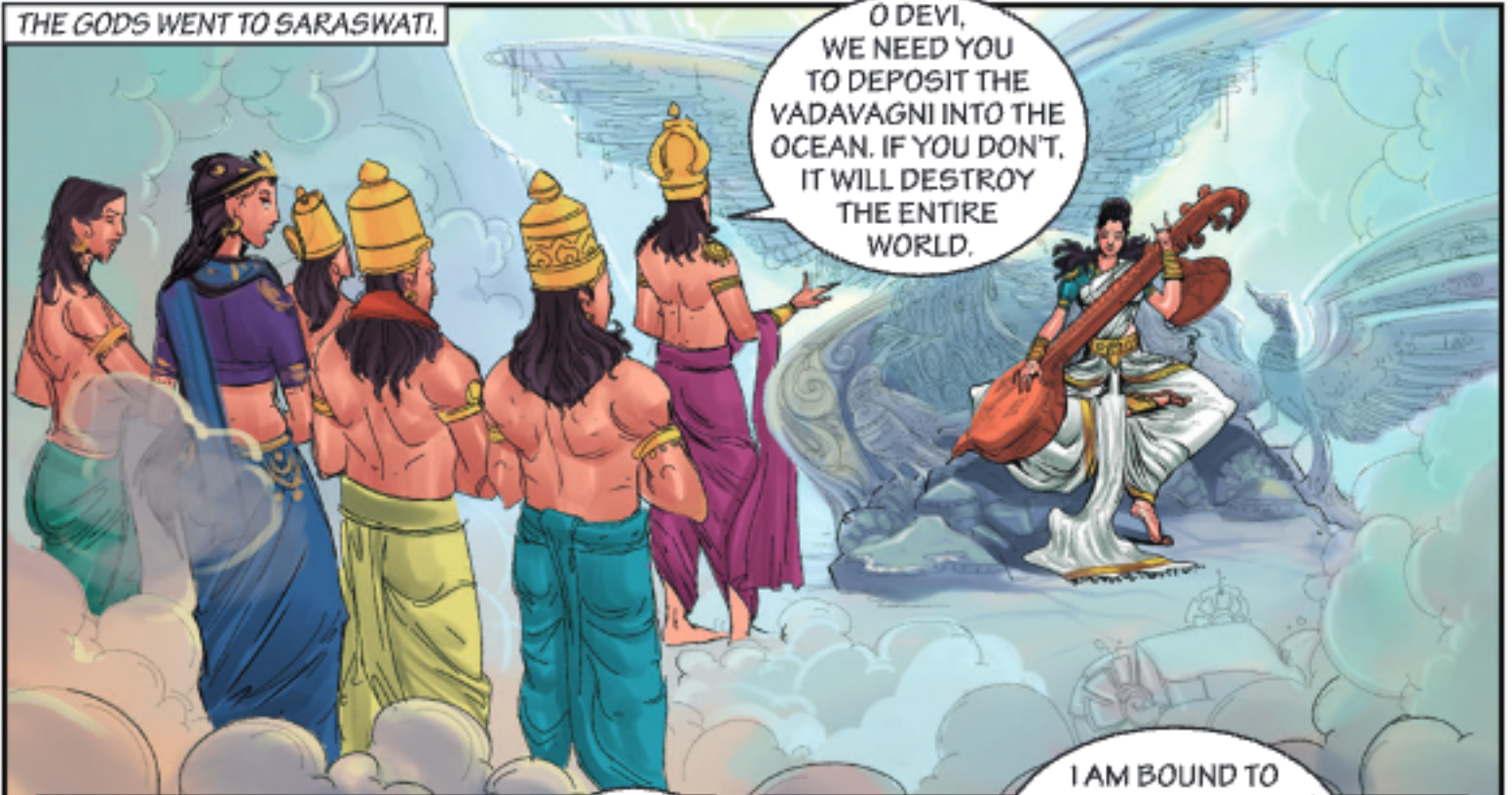


\*THE BRAHMINS AND THE KSHATRIYAS

\*ALL-CONSUMING FIRE, THAT DESTROYS  
EVERYTHING IN ITS WAY



THE GODS WENT TO SARASWATI.



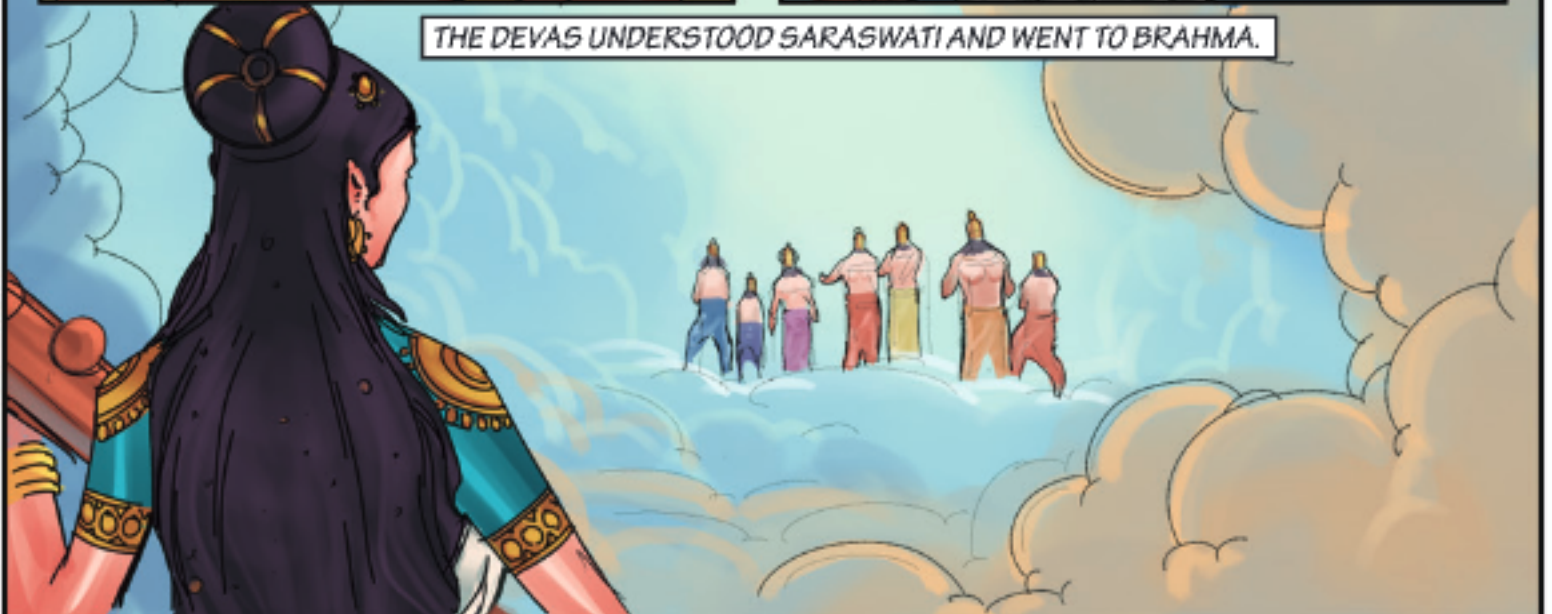
YOU CAN  
CARRY THE  
FIRE IN THE  
FORM OF A  
RIVER.



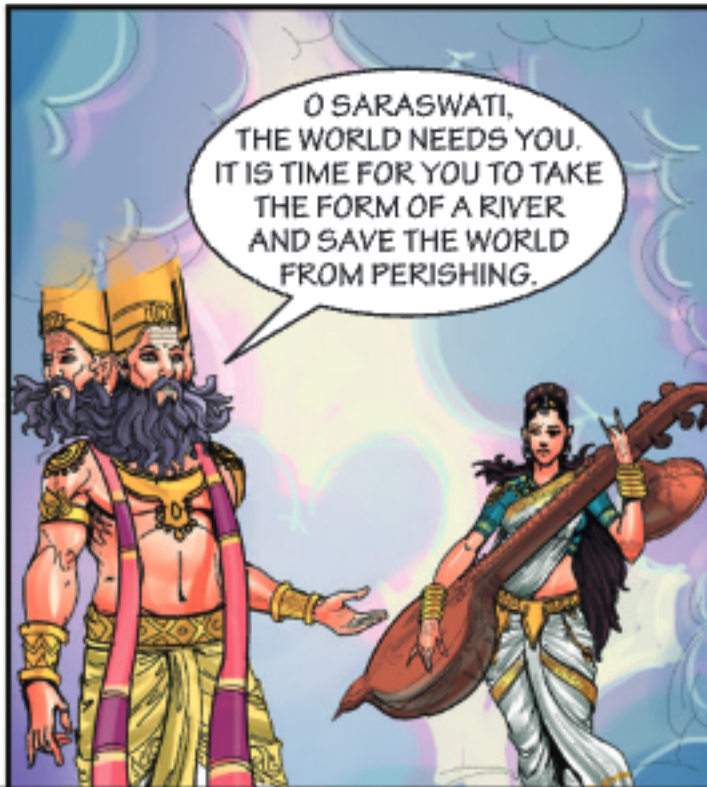
I AM BOUND TO  
BRAHMA. I SHALL DO  
NOTHING WITHOUT HIS  
CONSENT. I WILL GO  
ONLY IF HE ASKS  
ME TO.



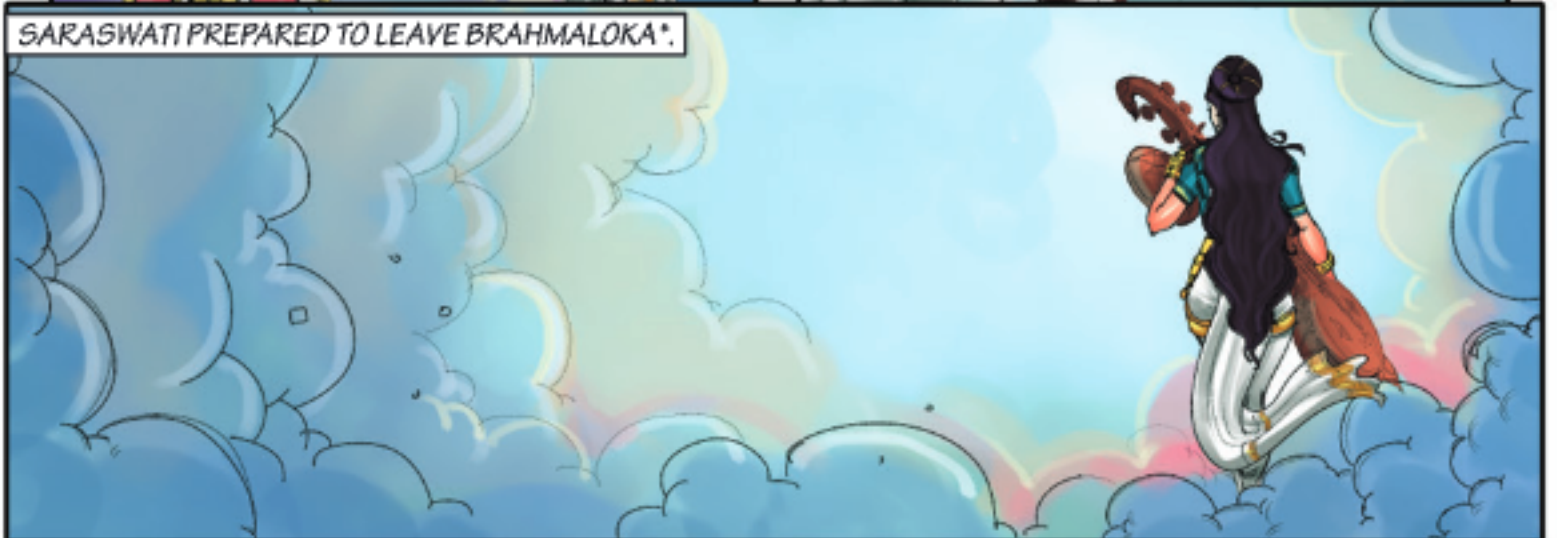
THE DEVAS UNDERSTOOD SARASWATI AND WENT TO BRAHMA.







SARASWATI PREPARED TO LEAVE BRAHMALOKA\*.





AS SARASWATI WAS LEAVING, THE GODDESSES GANGA, YAMUNA AND GAYATRI\* CAME TO SEE HER.

I CAN GUIDE YOU AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR JOURNEY.

I AM GRATEFUL, GANGA, BUT THIS IS MY TASK. I MUST ACCOMPLISH IT ALONE.

WITH THAT, SARASWATI LEFT FOR EARTH.

SHE ARRIVED AT THE ASHRAM OF SAGE UTTANKA...

...WHERE SHE MET SHIVA.

I GIVE YOU THE VADAVAGNI. JUST AS RIVER GANGA ORIGINATED FROM ME, YOU SHALL ORIGINATE FROM THE PLAKSHA TREE^.

\*THE GODDESS REPRESENTING THE SACRED GAYATRI CHANT

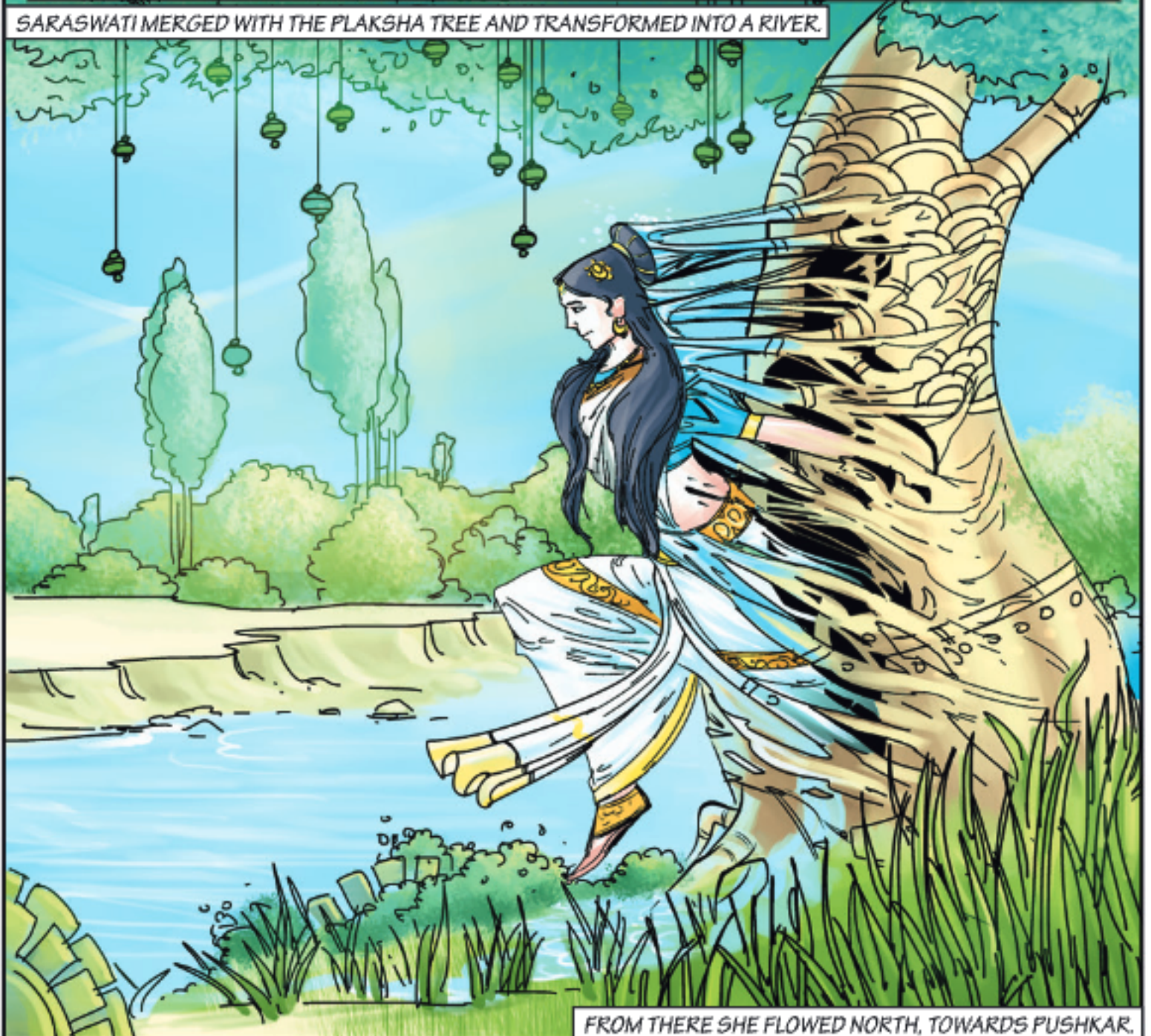
^THE SACRED FIG TREE



THE PLAKSHA TREE STOOD STRONG, READY TO BEAR SARASWATI.



SARASWATI MERGED WITH THE PLAKSHA TREE AND TRANSFORMED INTO A RIVER.



FROM THERE SHE FLOWED NORTH, TOWARDS PUSHKAR.

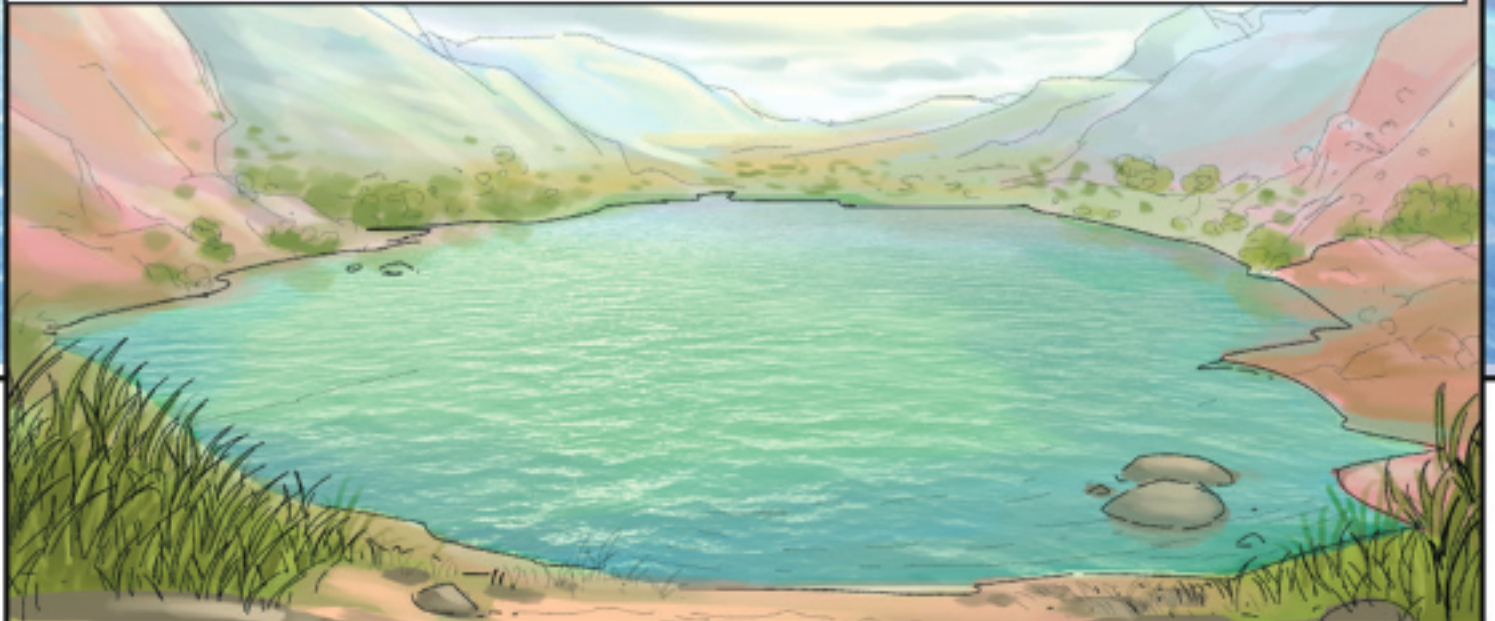


SARASWATI REDEEMED THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE THERE.

MY WATERS  
SHALL PURIFY YOU.  
I GIVE YOU ALL A CHANCE  
TO WASH AWAY  
YOUR SINS.

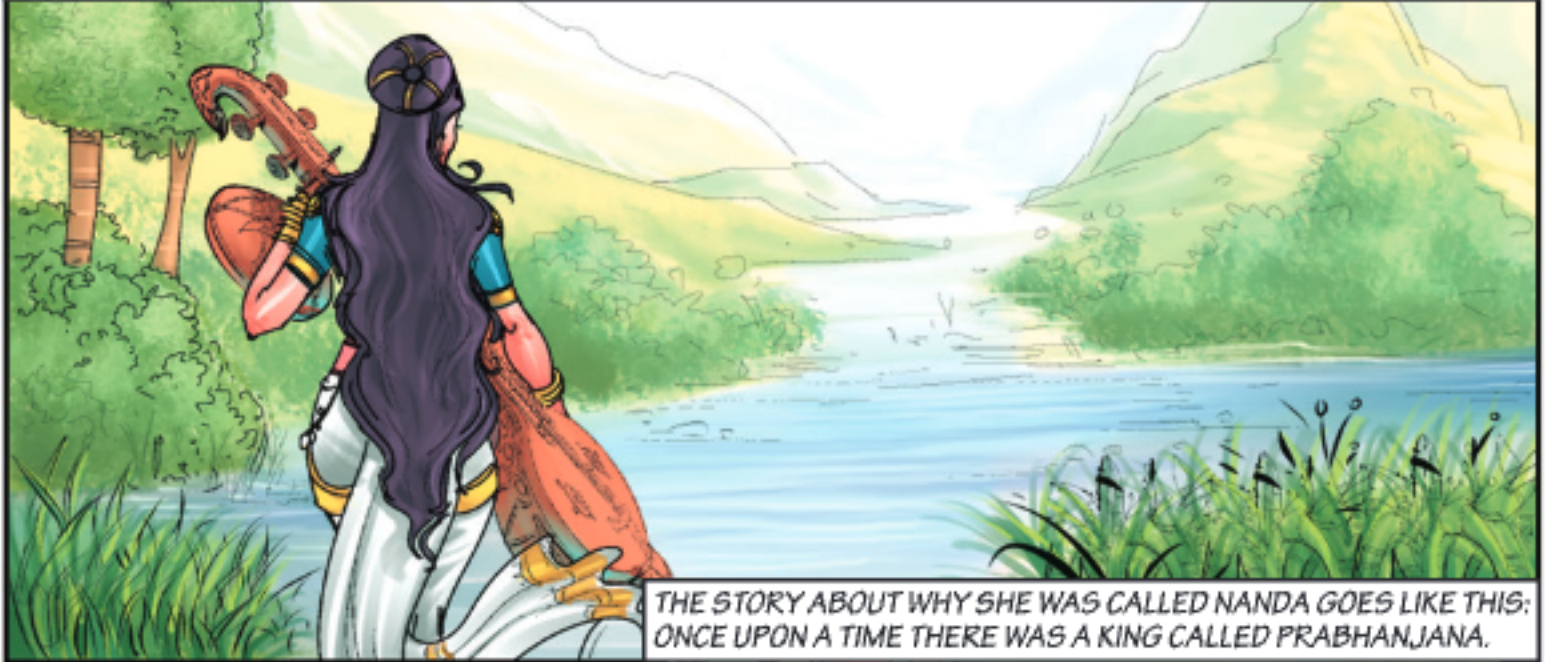


IT IS BELIEVED TO THIS DAY THAT ANYONE WHO DRINKS THE WATER AT PUSHKAR WILL ATTAIN BRAHMALOKA.





FROM PUSHKAR, SARASWATI FLOWED WEST AND REACHED A PLACE WHERE SHE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NANDA.

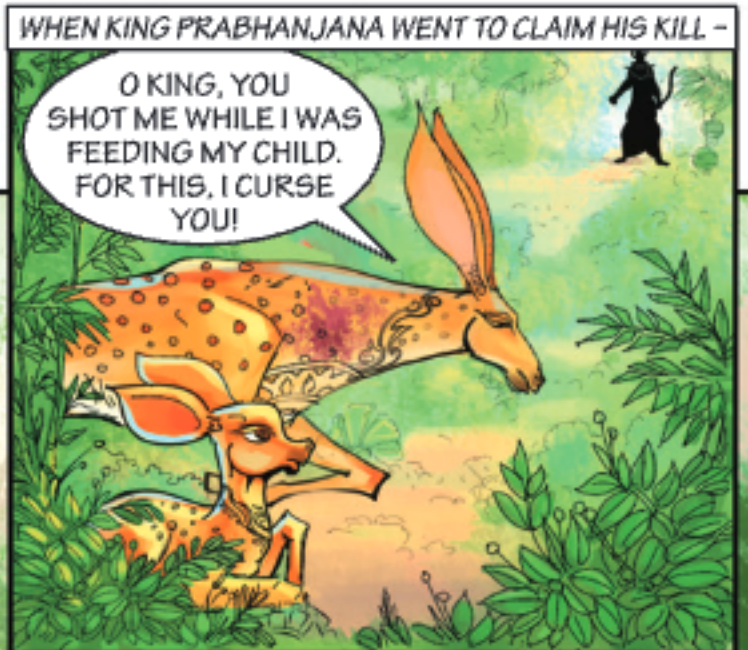
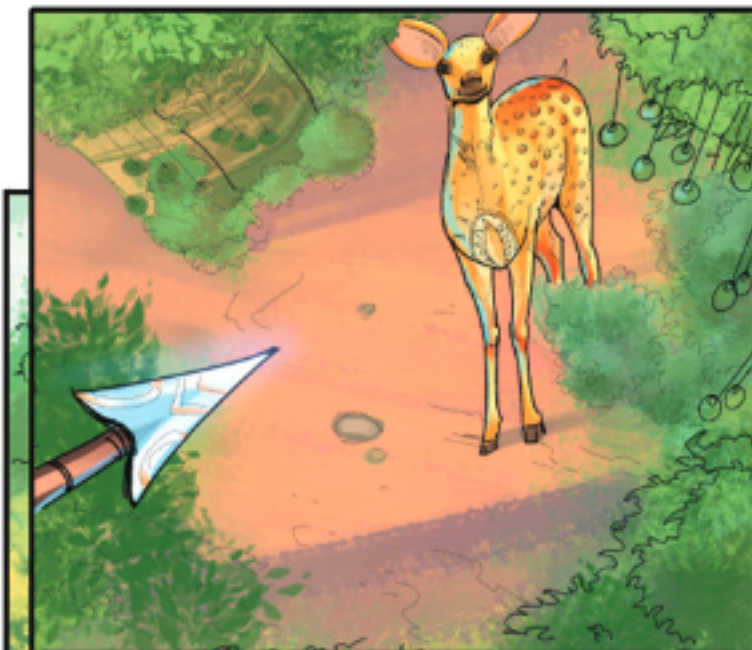
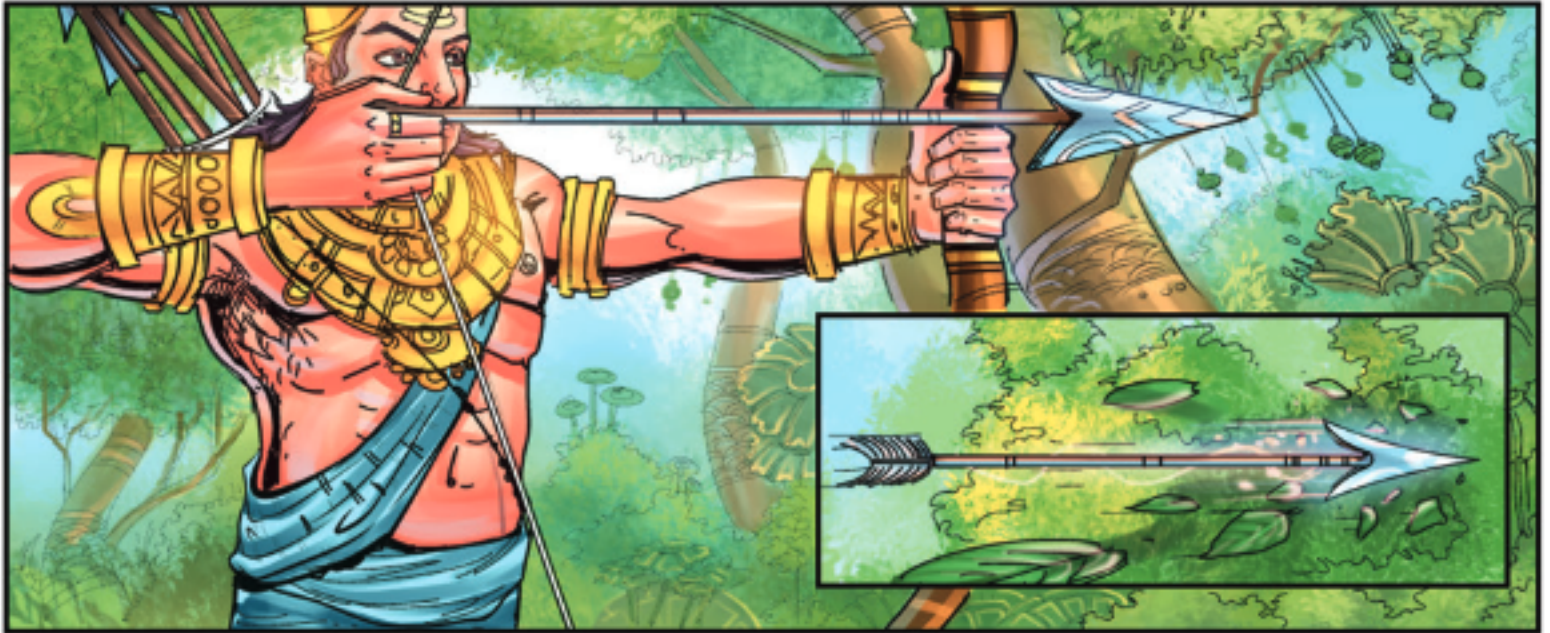


WHILE HE WAS OUT ON ONE OF HIS HUNTING TRIPS -

AH! I SEE A DEER. IT WILL MAKE A PERFECT KILL.

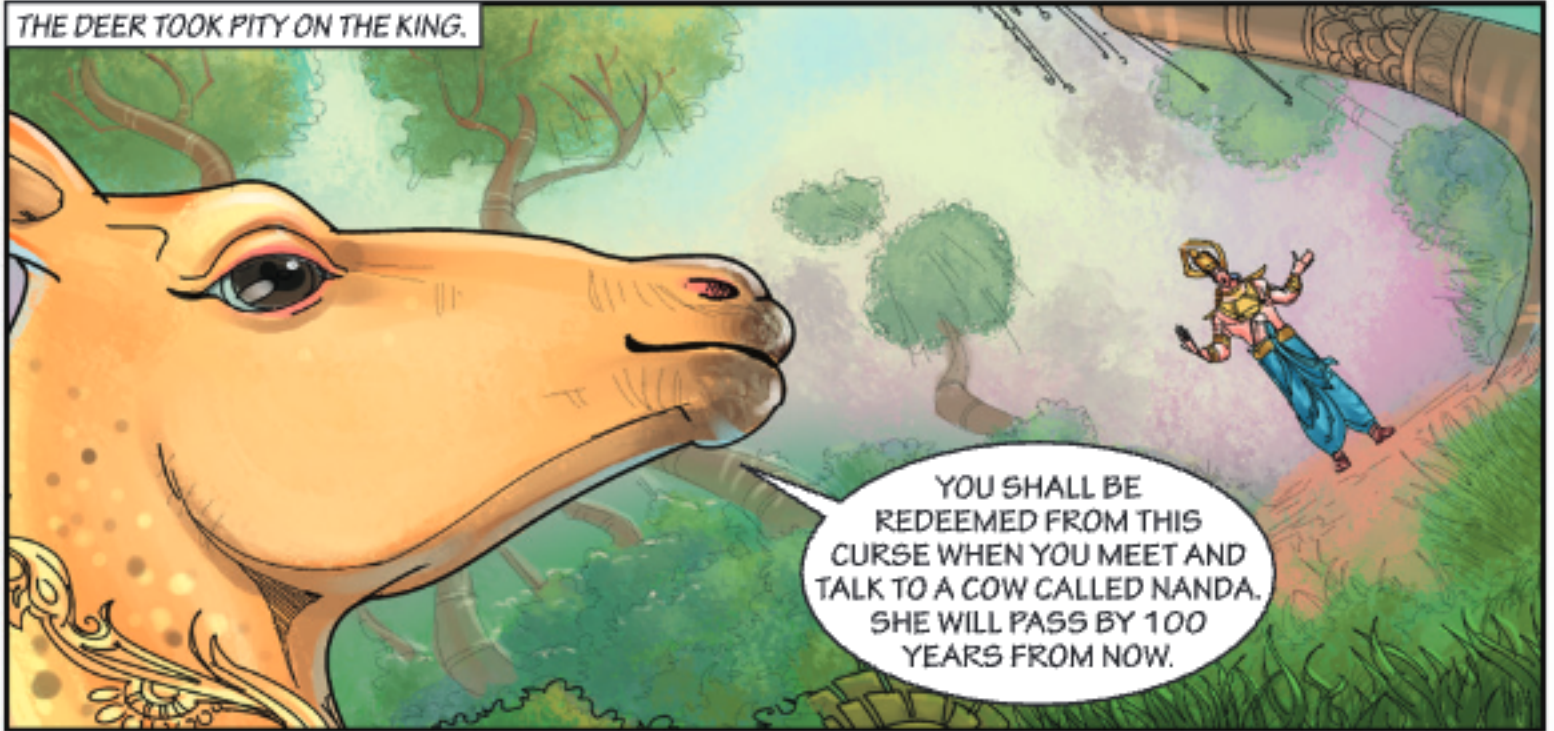








THE DEER TOOK PITY ON THE KING.



THE KING THEN TURNED INTO A TIGER...

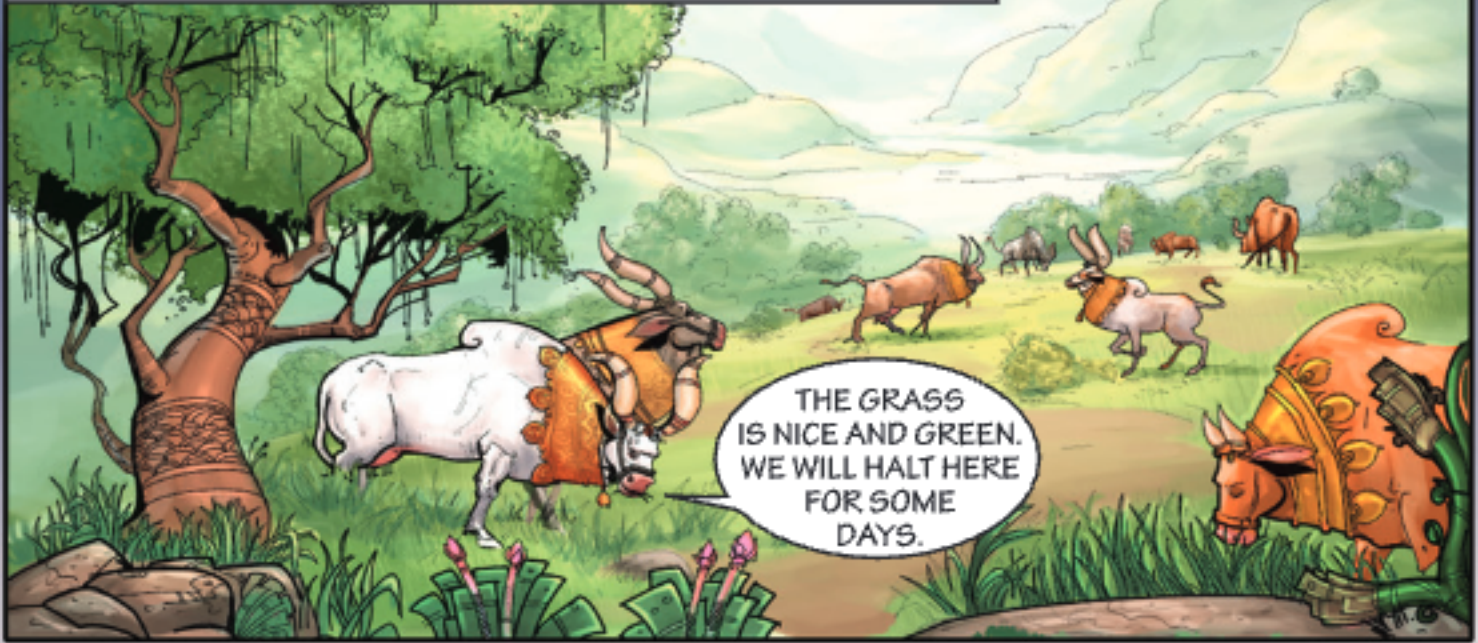


... AND ROAMED THE FOREST.





100 YEARS LATER, A HERD OF COWS CAME TO GRAZE NEAR THE FOREST.



NANDA WAS THE LEADER OF THE HERD. SHE GRAZED A LITTLE DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE REST.



WITHOUT REALISING, NANDA STRAYED AWAY.





AS NANDA TURNED TO LEAVE -



THE NEXT DAY -



THE TIGER WAS SURPRISED BY NANDA'S HONESTY.

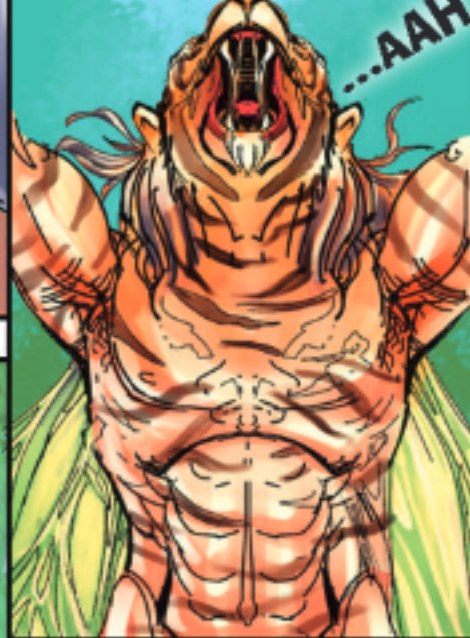




THE MOMENT NANDA SPOKE THOSE WORDS...

...THE DEER'S CURSE WAS BROKEN...

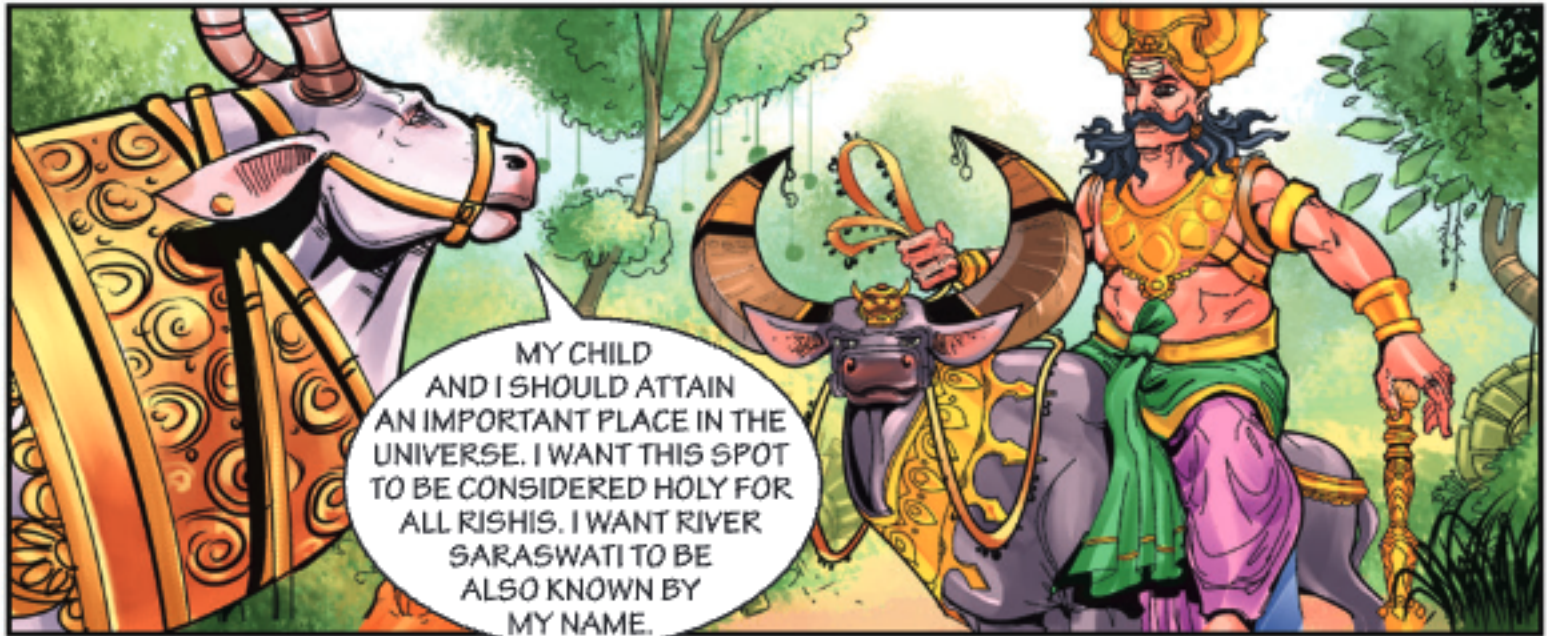
... AND THE TIGER TURNED BACK INTO PRABHANJANA.



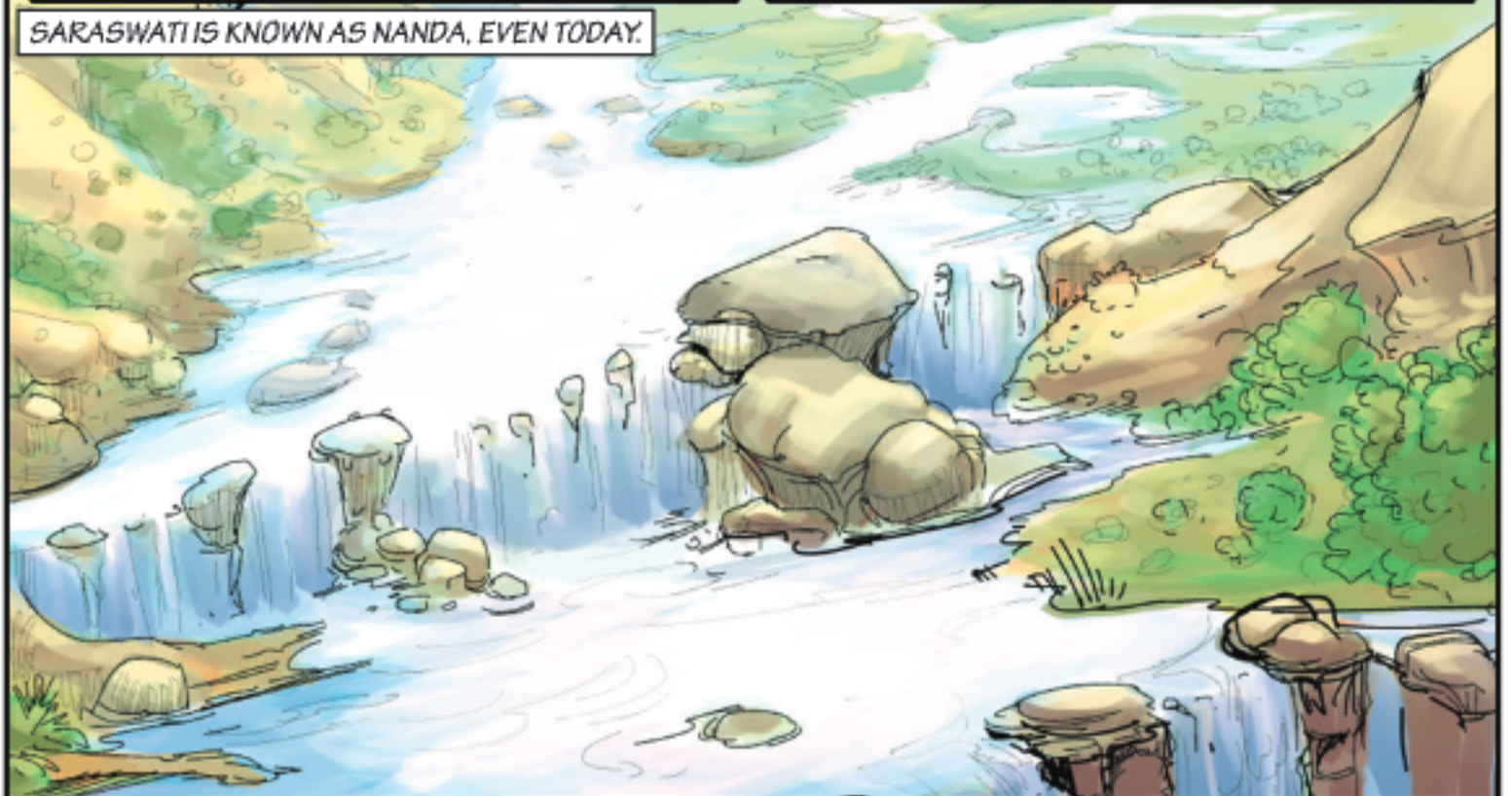
DHARMA DEVA\* APPEARED BEFORE NANDA -







SARASWATI IS KNOWN AS NANDA, EVEN TODAY.





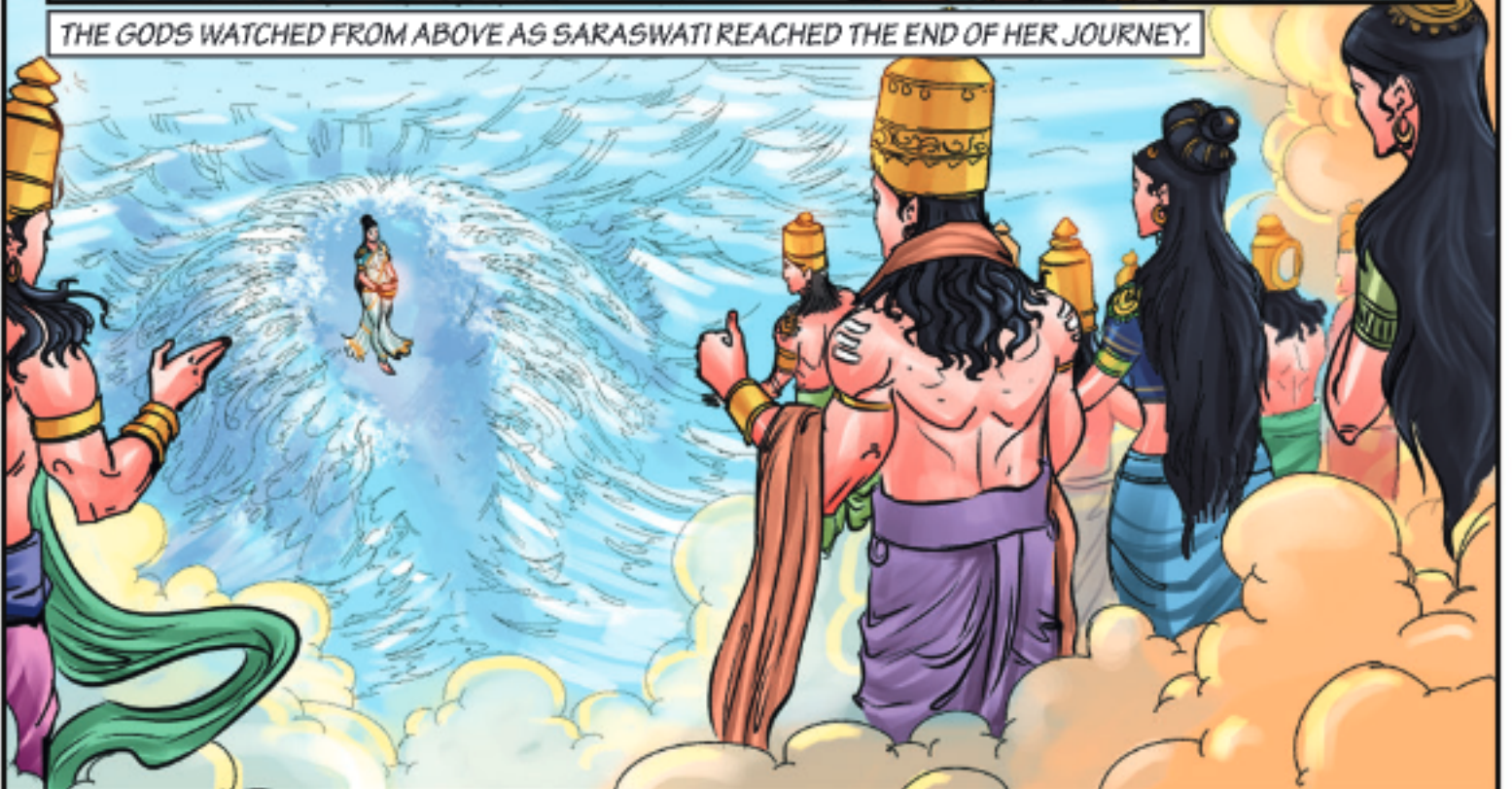
SARASWATI TURNED NORTH AGAIN AND FLOWED TOWARDS THE OCEAN.



IT IS TIME  
TO RELEASE  
THE FIRE.



THE GODS WATCHED FROM ABOVE AS SARASWATI REACHED THE END OF HER JOURNEY.





SARASWATI DEPOSITED THE FIRE IN THE OCEAN'S WATERS ...



... SAVING THE UNIVERSE FROM BEING BURNT TO ASHES.



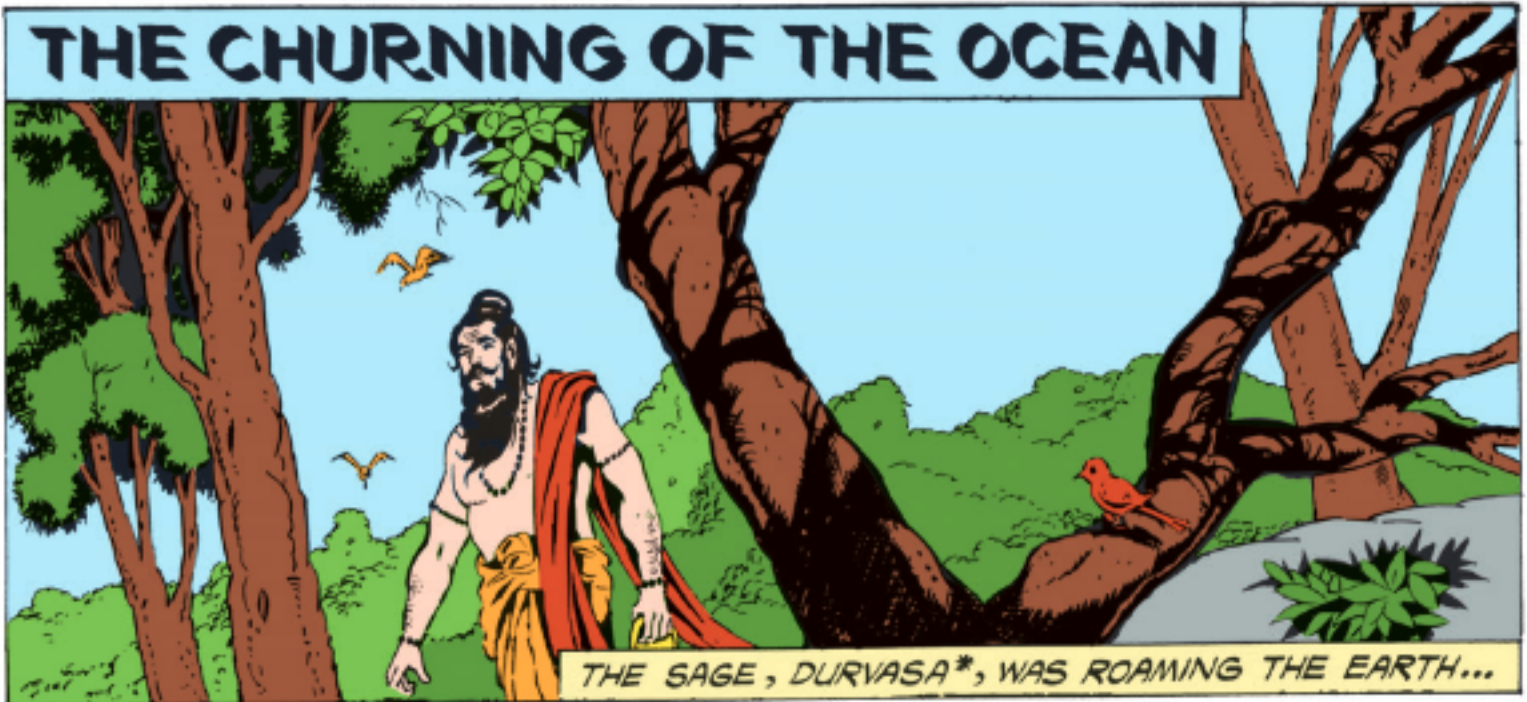
# CHURNING OF THE OCEAN

VISHNU SAVES CREATION





# THE CHURNING OF THE OCEAN



THE SAGE, DURVASA\*, WAS ROAMING THE EARTH...

...WHEN HE BEHELD, IN THE HANDS OF A FLYING NYMPH, A GARLAND OF HEAVENLY FLOWERS.



SO HEADY WAS THE PERFUME OF THOSE FLOWERS THAT THE SAGE BECAME FRANTIC WITH DESIRE FOR THE GARLAND.



BEAUTIFUL NYMPH!  
GIVE ME THAT GARLAND,  
I PRAY YOU!

YOU ARE WELCOME  
TO IT, MY LORD, FOR  
YOU ARE CERTAINLY  
WORTHY OF IT.

THE SAGE TOOK THE GARLAND AND WALKED ON.



\* HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A PART REINCARNATION OF SHIVA

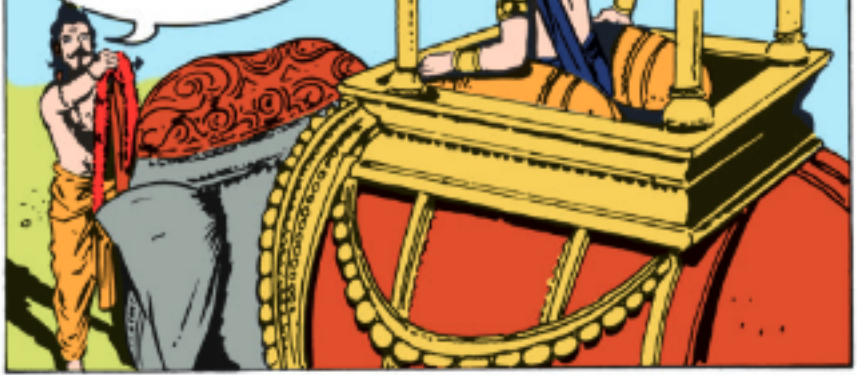


BY AND BY HE SAW INDRA, THE LORD OF THE GODS WHO RULES THE THREE WORLDS, APPROACHING.



INDRA WAS SEATED ON THE CELESTIAL ELEPHANT AIRAVATA.

O INDRA! ACCEPT THIS GARLAND FROM WHICH, EVEN NOW, THE BEES ARE COLLECTING SWEET AMBROSIA!



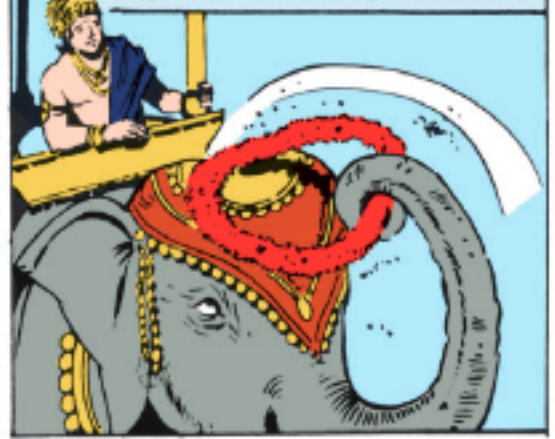
INDRA TOOK IT...



...AND JOKINGLY PLACED IT ON THE BROW OF AIRAVATA.



AIRAVATA, INTOXICATED BY THE FRAGRANCE TOOK HOLD OF THE GARLAND WITH HIS TRUNK...



...AND FLUNG IT TO THE GROUND.

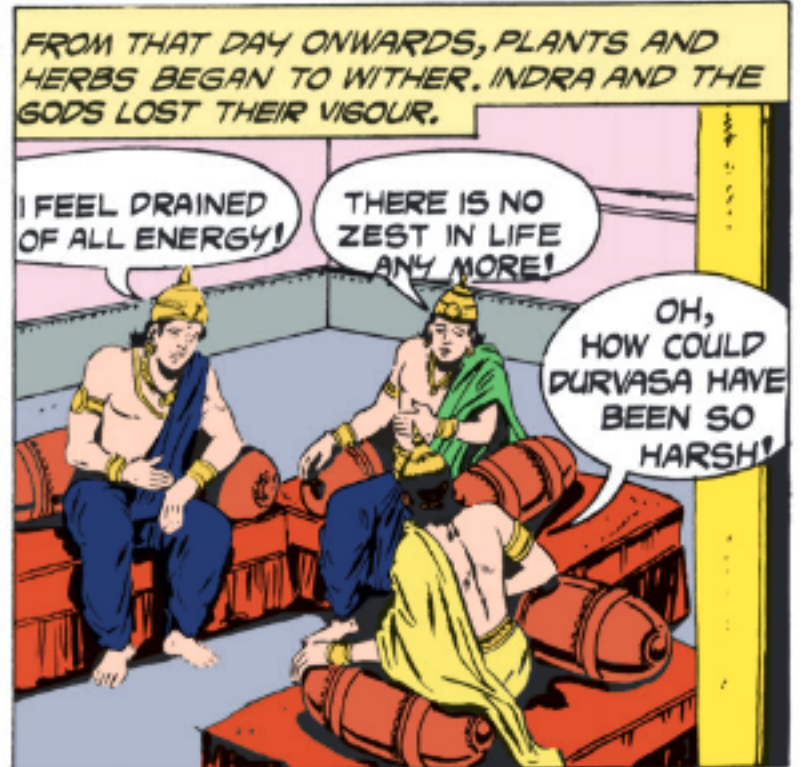
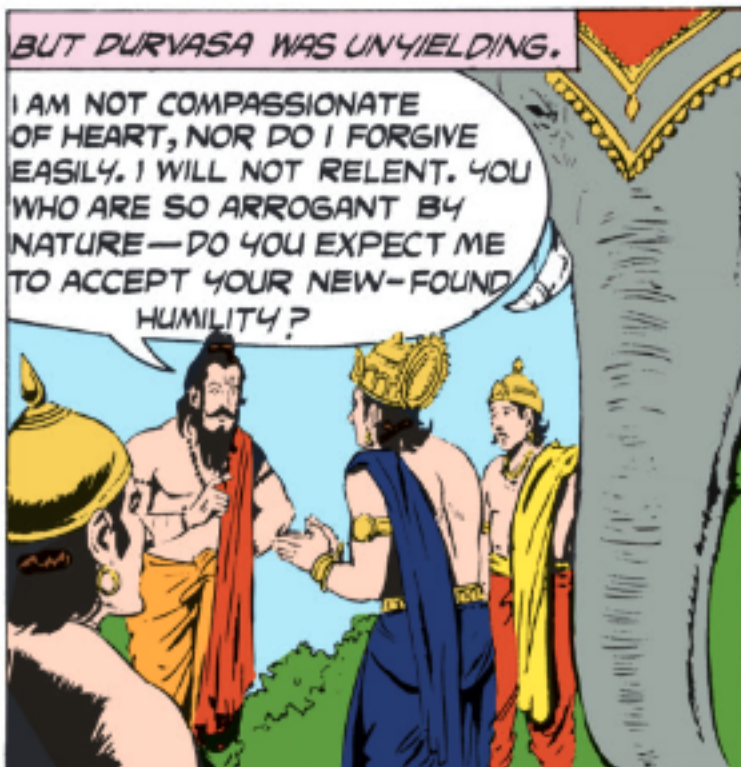
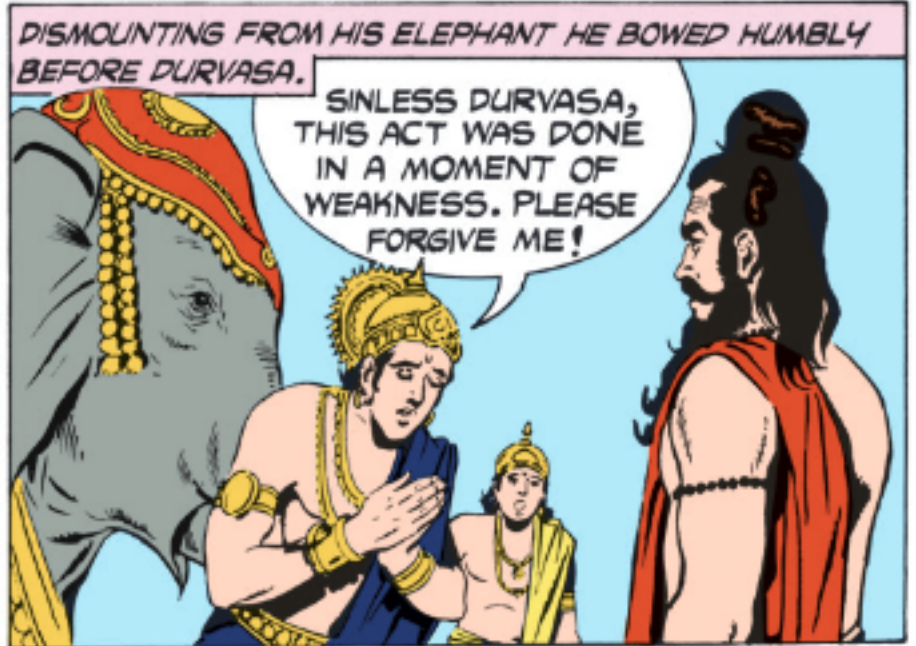


SAGE DURVASA WAS FURIOUS.

O, INDRA, WHAT AN ACT OF FOLLY IS THIS! I PRESENTED YOU A GARLAND WHICH IS THE DWELLING PLACE OF SHREE, THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE. YET YOU HAVE SPURNED IT!









IN THIS SITUATION, IT WAS THE ASURAS, THE ENEMIES OF THE DEVAS, WHO BENEFITED. THEY TAUNTED THE DEVAS.



THE DEVAS WERE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, THOUGH THEY WERE UNWILLING.



GREAT NUMBERS OF DEVAS WERE FELLED AND COULD NOT RISE AGAIN. THE REST, HEADED BY AGNI, THE GOD OF FIRE, FLED.



THEY DID NOT STOP TILL THEY CAME TO THE REGIONS OF BRAHMA.



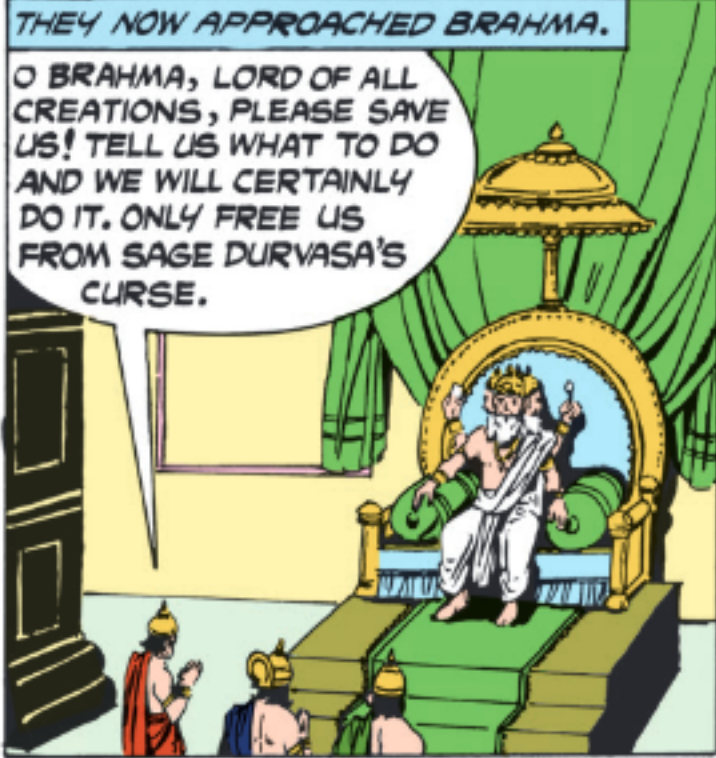
BRAHMA'S COURT WAS ON THE CREST OF THE SHINING MOUNT MERU. IT WAS FULL OF GRACEFUL TREES, FRAGRANT FLOWERS AND COOL STREAMS. BUT THE DEVAS WERE NOT SOOTHED EVEN BY THE SOFT BREEZE.



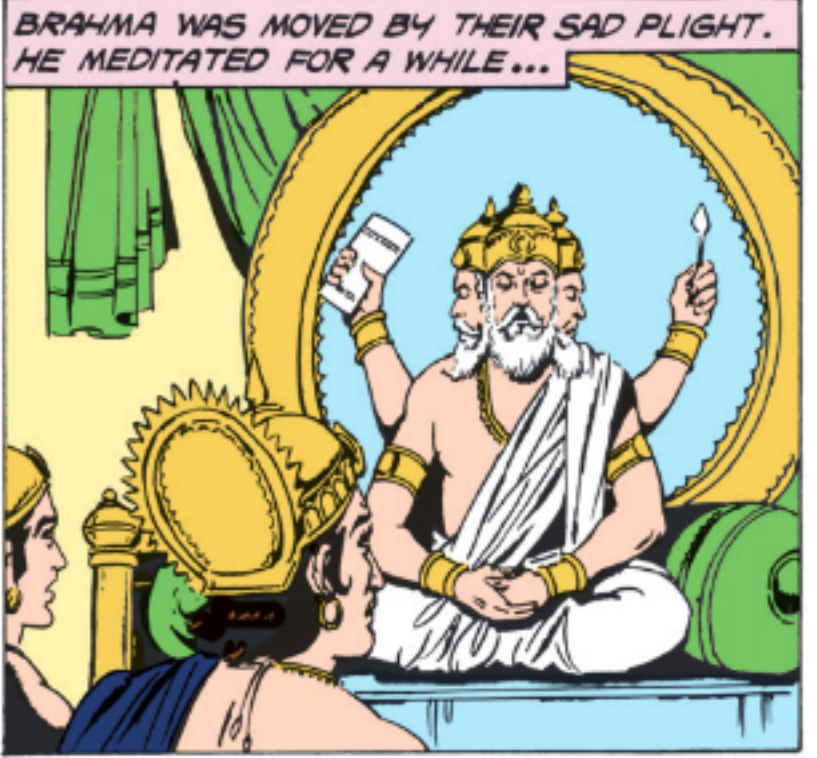


THEY NOW APPROACHED BRAHMA.

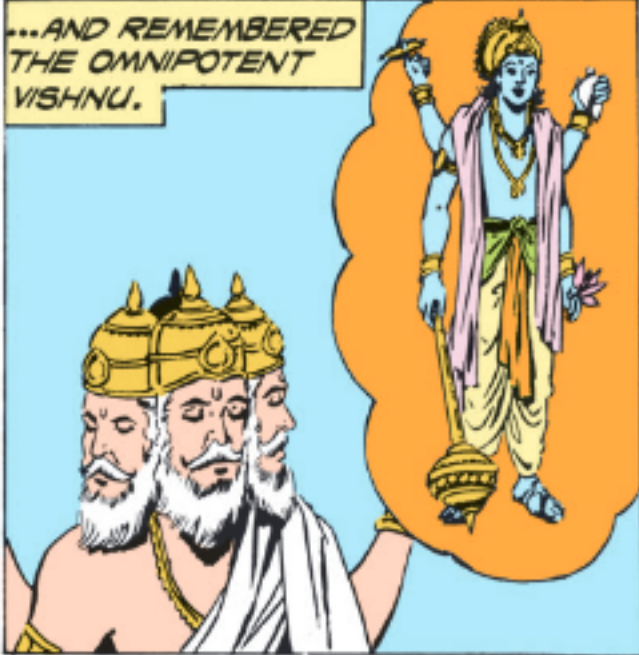
O BRAHMA, LORD OF ALL CREATIONS, PLEASE SAVE US! TELL US WHAT TO DO AND WE WILL CERTAINLY DO IT. ONLY FREE US FROM SAGE DURVASA'S CURSE.



BRAHMA WAS MOVED BY THEIR SAD PLIGHT. HE MEDITATED FOR A WHILE...

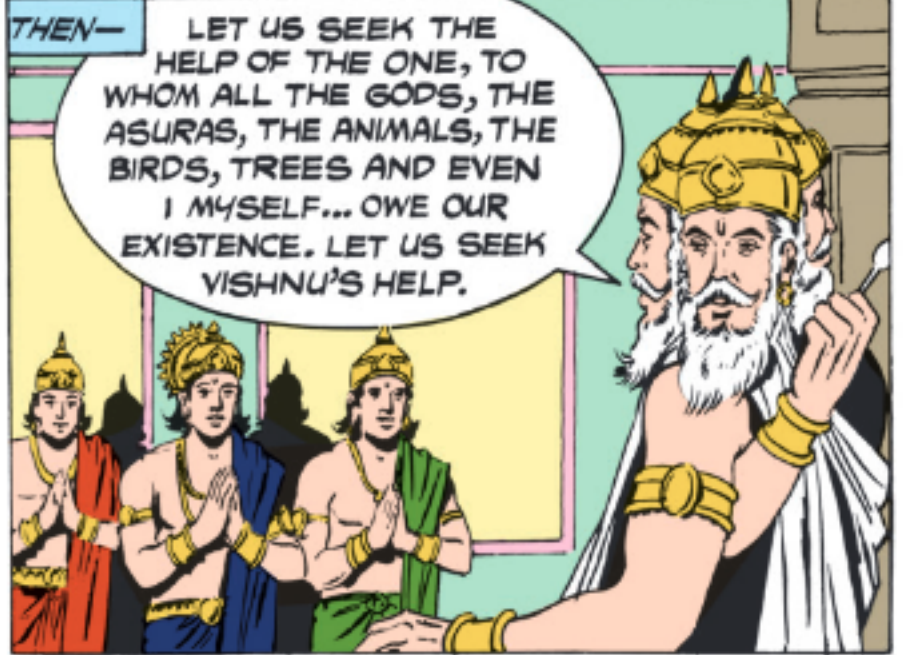


...AND REMEMBERED THE OMNIPOTENT VISHNU.



THEN—

LET US SEEK THE HELP OF THE ONE, TO WHOM ALL THE GODS, THE ASURAS, THE ANIMALS, THE BIRDS, TREES AND EVEN I MYSELF... OWE OUR EXISTENCE. LET US SEEK VISHNU'S HELP.



COME, I WILL TAKE YOU TO HIM MYSELF.

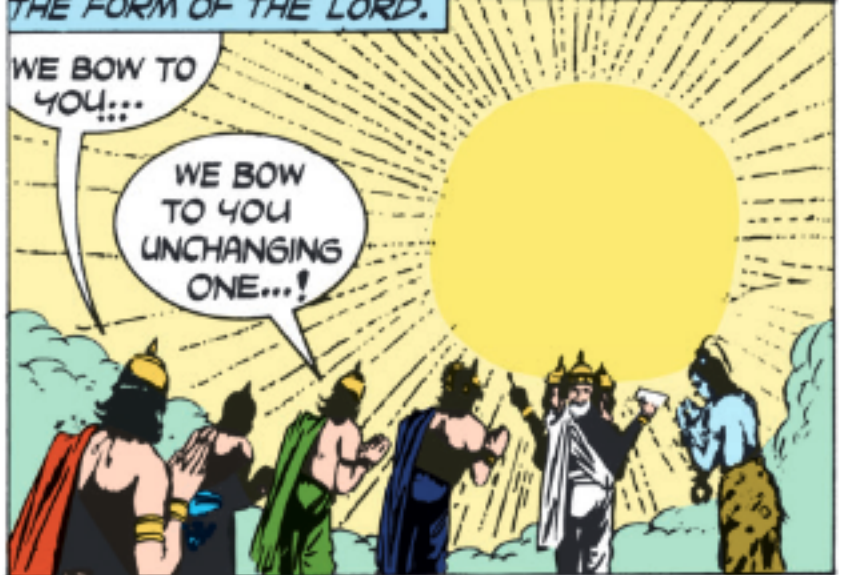
WHEN BRAHMA HIMSELF LEADS US, HOW CAN WE FAIL!



WHEN THEY ARRIVED IN VAIKUNTHA, THE ABODE OF VISHNU, SO DAZZLED WERE THEY BY HIS BRILLIANCE, THAT THEY COULD NOT SEE THE FORM OF THE LORD.

WE BOW TO YOU...

WE BOW TO YOU UNCHANGING ONE...!

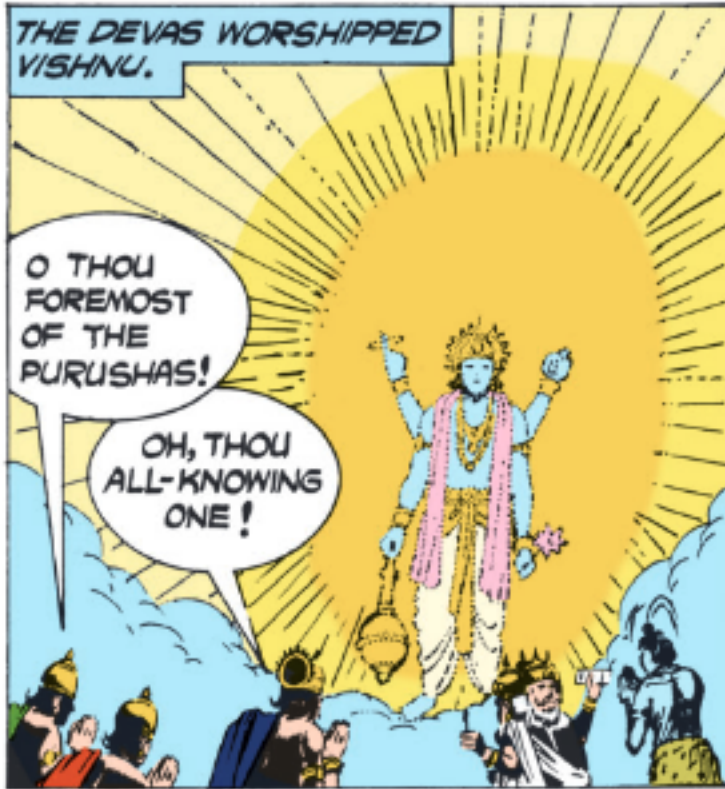




THE DEVAS WORSHIPPED VISHNU.

O THOU FOREMOST OF THE PURUSHAS!

OH, THOU ALL-KNOWING ONE!



FINALLY THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE HIM. HE WAS AS LUSTROUS AS A THOUSAND SUNS.



O, ALL-KNOWING BEING, SINCE NOTHING REMAINS HIDDEN FROM YOU, NEITHER PAST NOR PRESENT, YOU KNOW OF OUR FLIGHT.

HELP US THEREFORE AND GIVE US VICTORY AGAINST THE ASURAS.

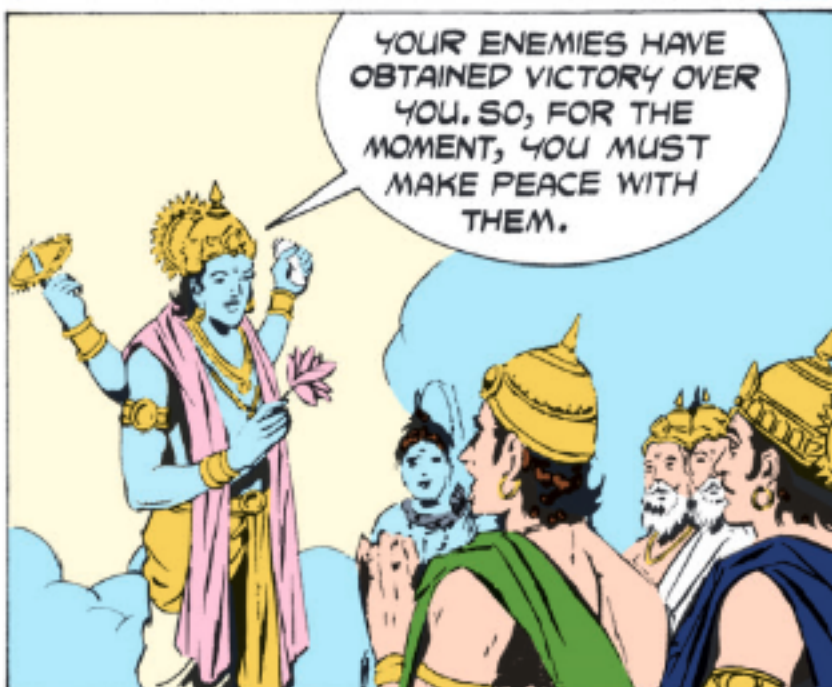


LORD VISHNU WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE, THEN —

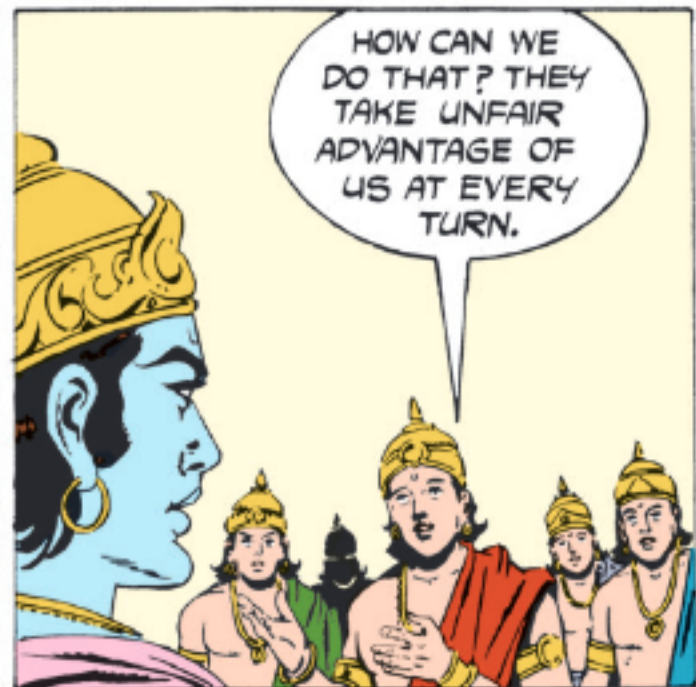
LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY AND ALL WILL BE WELL WITH YOU.



YOUR ENEMIES HAVE OBTAINED VICTORY OVER YOU. SO, FOR THE MOMENT, YOU MUST MAKE PEACE WITH THEM.



HOW CAN WE DO THAT? THEY TAKE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF US AT EVERY TURN.



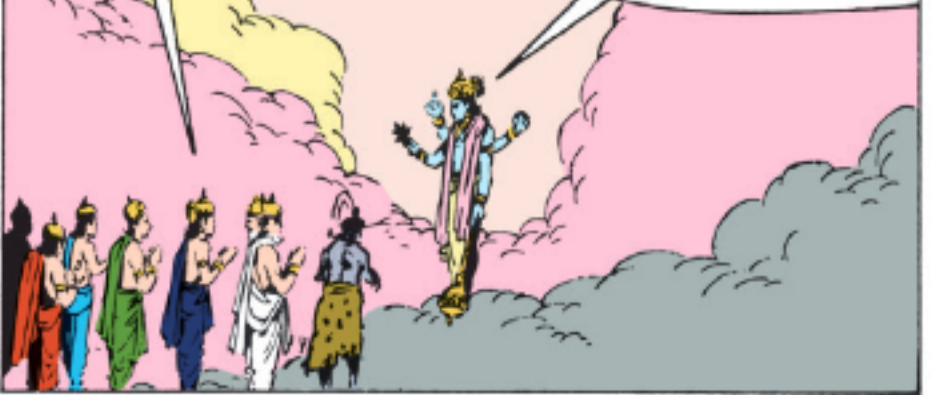


IT IS BETTER TO MAKE PEACE WITH ENEMIES, EVEN AS A SERPENT WILL MAKE FRIENDS WITH A MOUSE, IF NECESSARY.



BUT, LORD, WE ARE AFRAID TO GO NEAR THEM!

THAT IS WHY I SAY YOU MUST FIRST MAKE PEACE WITH THEM. THEN YOU MUST ENDEAVOUR TO CHURN UP THE NECTAR OF IMMORTALITY FROM THE OCEAN.



GET THOSE VERY ASURAS TO HELP YOU TO OBTAIN IT. ONCE YOU HAVE PARTAKEN OF IT, YOU WILL HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM EVER AGAIN!



BUT THEN, IF THE ASURAS HELP US WITH THE CHURNING, WON'T THEY ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF THE NECTAR?



NO! THOUGH THEY WILL HELP WITH THE CHURNING, THE NECTAR WILL NOT BE THEIRS!



THE DEVAS WERE PLEASED WITH VISHNU'S ADVICE. THEY BOWED IN REVERENCE TO HIM.



WE WILL INVITE THE ASURAS TO JOIN US IN CHURNING THE OCEAN.



THE DEVAS WENT TO BALI, THE KING OF THE ASURAS. HE WAS RESTING AFTER HAVING CONQUERED THE THREE WORLDS.



LOOK AT THOSE WEAKLINGS, BEREFT OF ARMOUR AND WEAPONS!

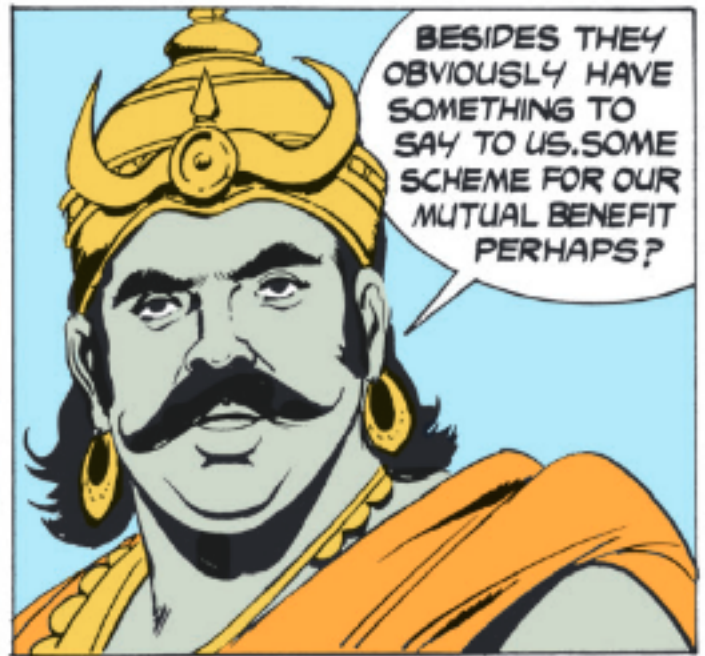
LET'S STRIKE THEM DOWN!



NO! DO NOT DRAW YOUR WEAPONS. IT IS TIME TO MAKE PEACE WITH OUR ENEMIES.



BESIDES THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO US. SOME SCHEME FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT PERHAPS?



SPEAK! WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE, AT GREAT RISK TO YOURSELVES? HAVE YOU SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE?

WE HAVE, O WISE AND ILLUSTRIOUS KING!

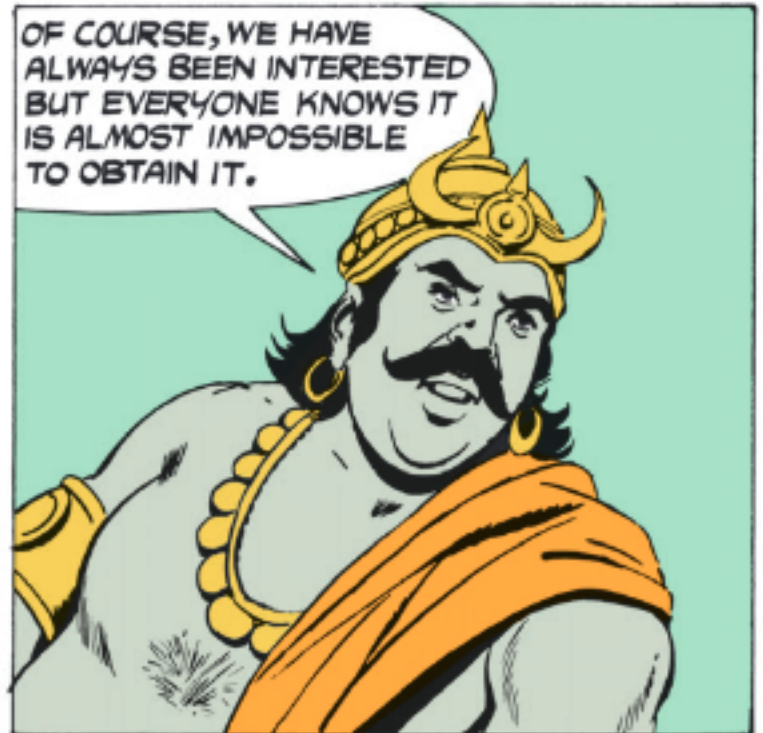


WELL, GO ON THEN.

FIRST TELL US— ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, THE DRINK THAT IMPARTS IMMORTALITY?





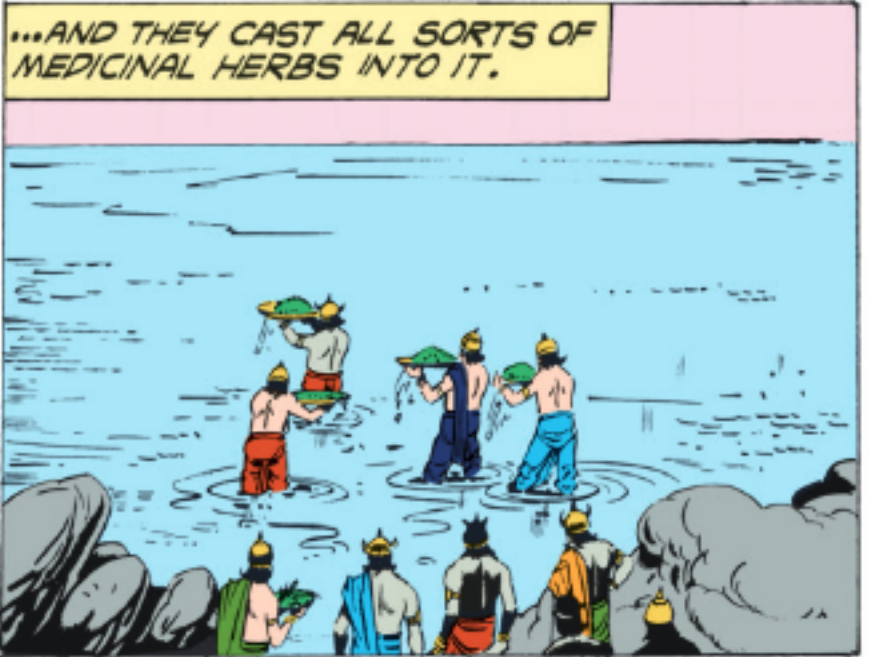




THEY WENT TOGETHER TO  
THE OCEAN OF MILK...



...AND THEY CAST ALL SORTS OF  
MEDICINAL HERBS INTO IT.



WE ARE READY, BUT THE OCEAN  
IS LIKE A MIGHTY CHURNING POT.  
WHAT SHALL WE CHURN  
IT WITH?

ONLY A MOUNTAIN WOULD  
DO AS A CHURNING  
ROD!



LORD VISHNU  
TOLD US TO UPROOT  
MOUNT MANDARA FOR  
THIS PURPOSE.

THAT'S  
RIGHT.

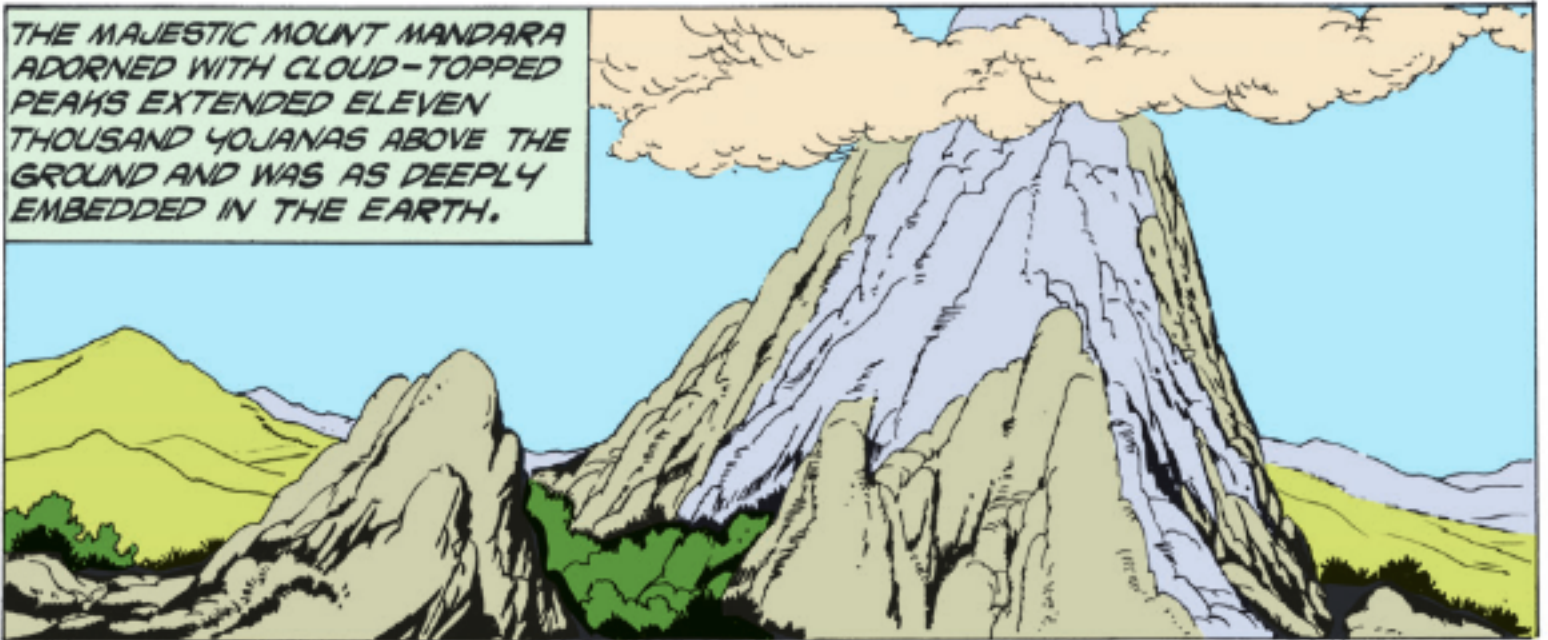


LET'S TRY  
AND UPROOT  
MOUNT MANDARA  
AND USE IT AS  
A CHURNING  
ROD.





THE MAJESTIC MOUNT MANDARA ADORNED WITH CLOUD-TOPPED PEAKS EXTENDED ELEVEN THOUSAND YOJANAS ABOVE THE GROUND AND WAS AS DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN THE EARTH.



INDRA AND THE DEVAS ALONG WITH BALI AND THE ASURAS UPROOTED MOUNT MANDARA...



...AND BEGAN TO CARRY IT TOWARDS THE OCEAN. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE VERY STRONG, THEY PANTED AND GASPED UNDER ITS WEIGHT.



ON AND ON THEY WENT, OVER A GREAT DISTANCE.

OH! I AM EXHAUSTED! I CANNOT GO ANY FARTHER.

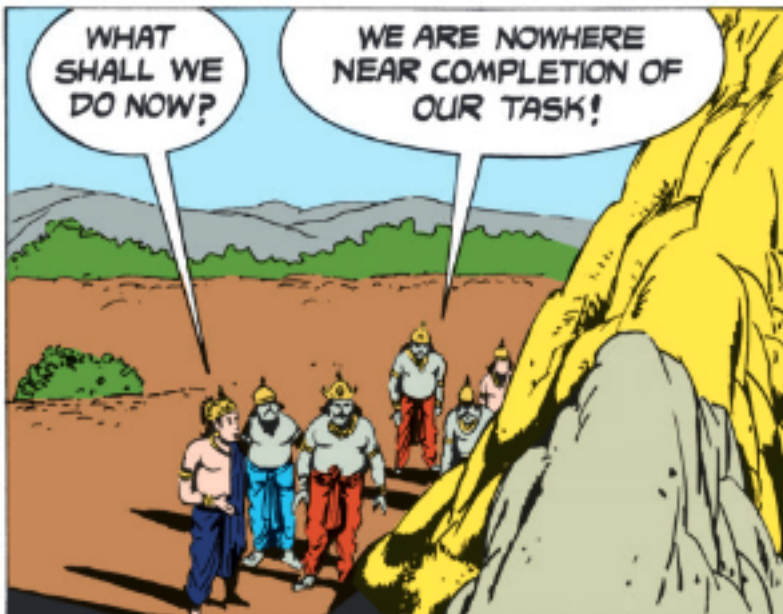




IN THE END, UNABLE TO HOLD OUT ANY LONGER, THEY DROPPED THE MOUNTAIN AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE CRUSHED UNDER IT.



THE CRIES OF THE ASURAS AND DEVAS INTERMINGLED.



WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW?

WE ARE NOWHERE NEAR COMPLETION OF OUR TASK!

BOTH THE ASURAS AND THE DEVAS WERE IN DESPAIR.



SO MANY OF OUR FRIENDS HAVE BEEN CRUSHED AND INJURED!

BUT LORD VISHNU, WHO SAW ALL THIS, ARRIVED ON HIS VEHICLE, GARUDA.



IT'S LORD VISHNU!

LORD VISHNU!

HIS HEALING GLANCE FELL ON THEM, AND THE INJURED DEVAS AND ASURAS WERE REVIVED.



OH, PAULOMA! YOU ARE WELL AGAIN!

OH, AGNI! HOW GLAD I AM TO SEE YOU ABLE TO STAND UP AGAIN!



THEN LORD VISHNU EFFORTLESSLY  
RAISED THE MOUNTAIN WITH ONE  
HAND...



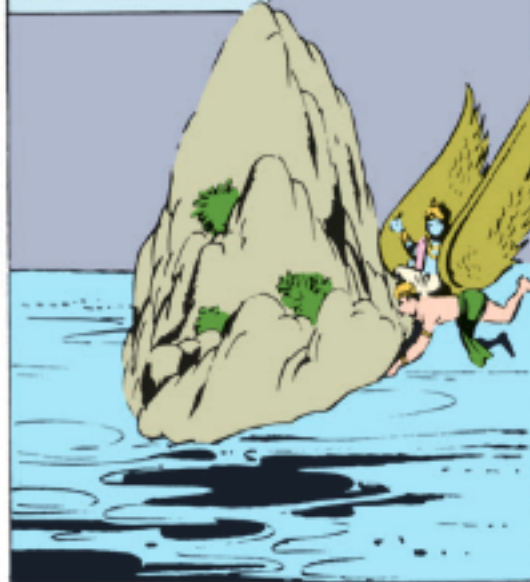
...AND PLACED IT ON THE  
BACK OF GARUDA.



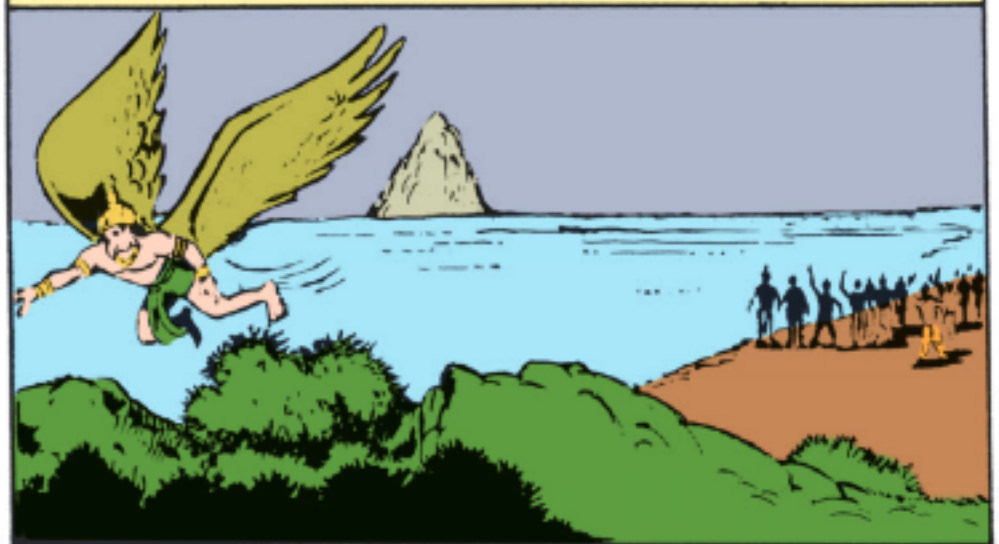
VISHNU HIMSELF THEN  
MOUNTED GARUDA AND  
PROCEEDED TOWARDS  
THE OCEAN OF MILK.



ON REACHING THERE, GARUDA  
GENTLY PLACED THE MOUNTAIN  
IN THE OCEAN...



...AND THEN FLEW AWAY.  
LORD VISHNU REMAINED BEHIND.



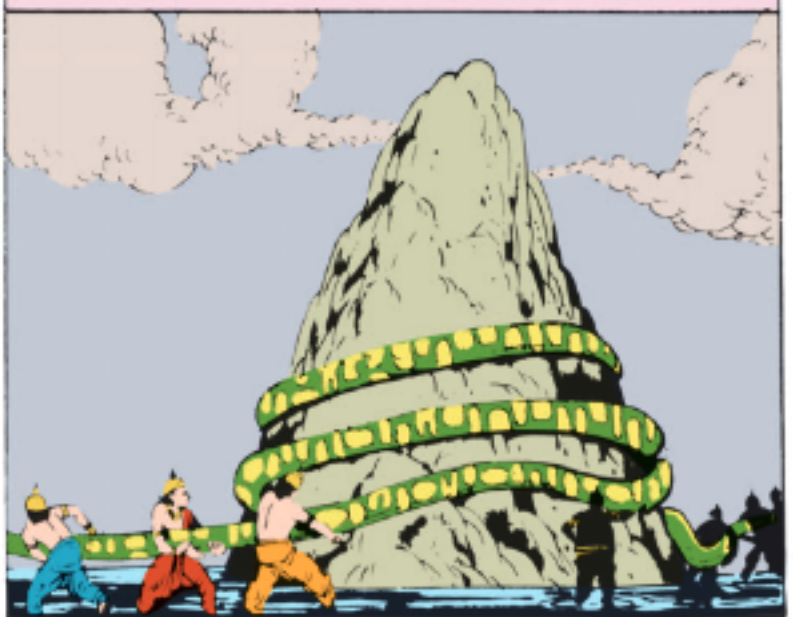
THEN THE DEVAS AND ASURAS WENT TO  
VASUKI, THE KING OF THE SNAKES.

O, VASUKI, COME  
HELP US TO CHURN  
THE MIGHTY OCEAN  
AND YOU SHALL  
ALSO PARTAKE OF  
THE NECTAR.

CERTAINLY! I WILL  
COME AND ACT AS  
A CHURNING  
ROPE.



SO VASUKI WENT WITH THEM AND ALLOWED  
THEM TO BIND HIM ROUND MOUNT MANDARA.







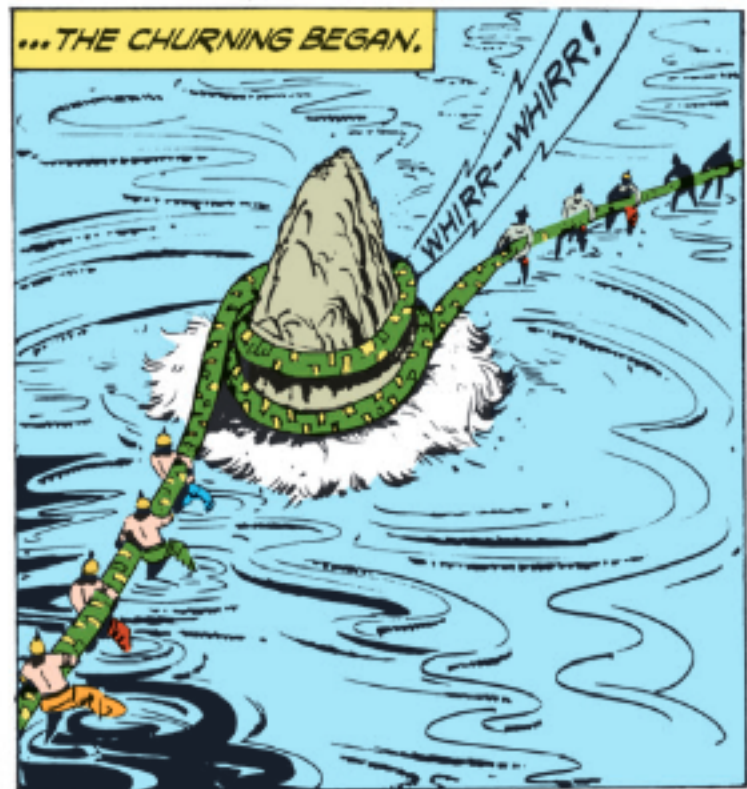
INDRA WAS JUST GOING TO GRASP VASUKI'S  
HEAD TO BEGIN THE CHURNING WHEN—



INDRA HID A SMILE AND QUIETLY WENT WITH  
THE DEVAS TO HOLD VASUKI'S TAIL INSTEAD.



WHEN BOTH THE GROUPS HAD TAKEN THEIR  
PLACES, THE ASURAS AT THE HEAD AND THE  
DEVAS AT THE TAIL OF VASUKI...





BUT ALAS! THERE WAS NO SUPPORT UNDER MOUNT MANDARA AND BECAUSE OF ITS IMMENSE WEIGHT, IT GRADUALLY SLIPPED DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

THE MOUNTAIN WON'T TURN!

THE MOUNTAIN IS SLIPPING FROM OUR GRASP!

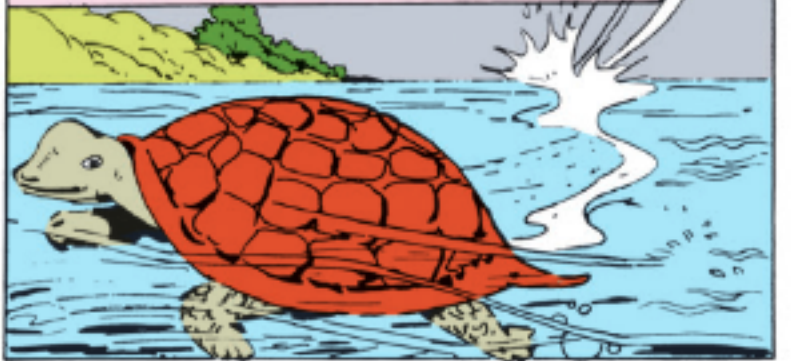
NO! IT IS SLIPPING DOWN DEEPER AND DEEPER.



HELP!  
HELP!

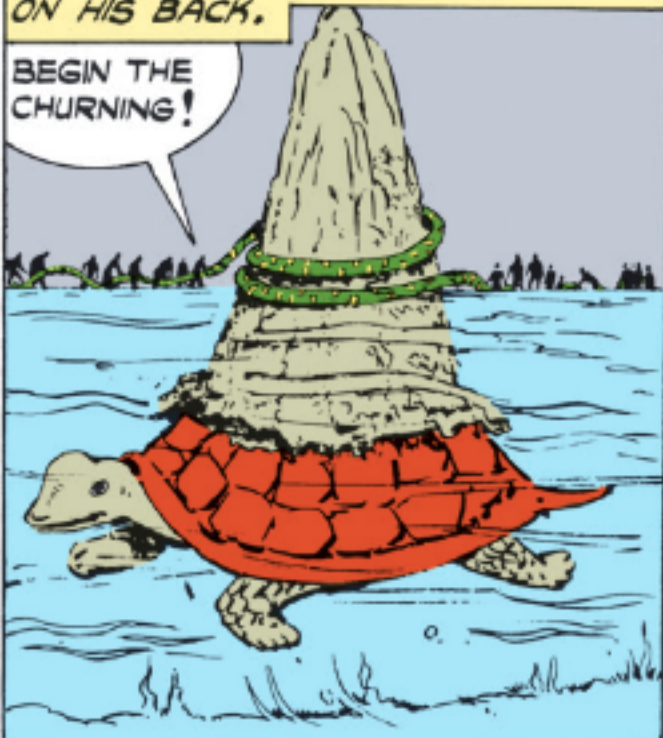


ONCE AGAIN VISHNU CAME TO THEIR AID. ASSUMING THE FORM OF A GIGANTIC TORTOISE, ALMOST LIKE A HUGE ISLAND, VISHNU DIVED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...



...AND HELD MOUNT MANDARA UP ON HIS BACK.

BEGIN THE CHURNING!



THROUGH THE GRACE OF LORD VISHNU, THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS AND VASUKI FELT A RENEWED STRENGTH WITHIN THEM AND THEY CHURNED FASTER AND FASTER.





THEN FIRE AND SMOKE ISSUED FROM THE THOUSAND MOUTHS OF VASUKI.



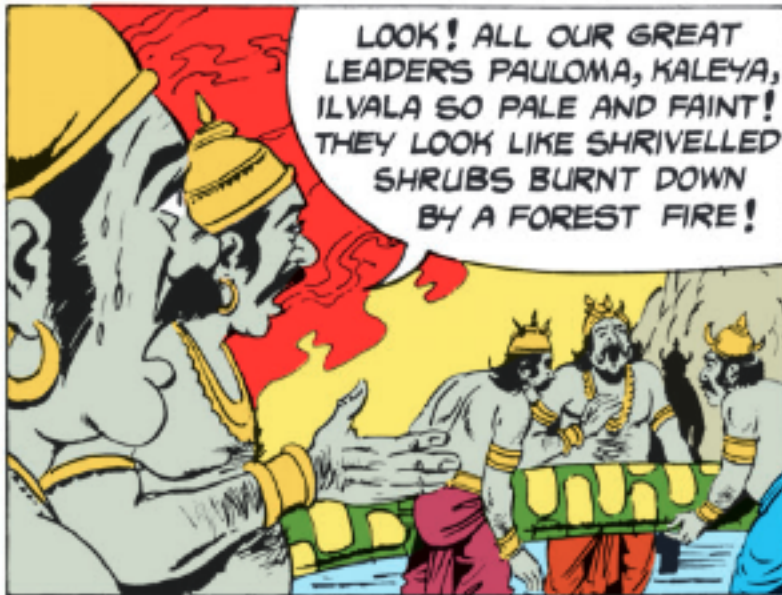
THESE FIERY PUFFS OF SMOKE ENGULFED THE ASURAS WHO WERE NEAR THE HOODS OF THE SNAKE.



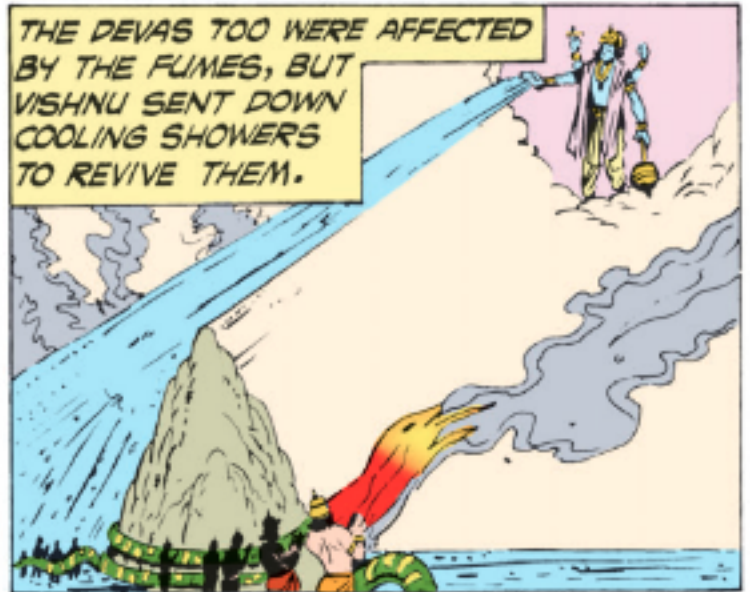
I CAN'T BREATHE!

THESE FUMES ARE SUFFOCATING US!

LOOK! ALL OUR GREAT LEADERS PAULOMA, KALEYA, ILVALA SO PALE AND FAINT! THEY LOOK LIKE SHRIVELLED SHRUBS BURNT DOWN BY A FOREST FIRE!



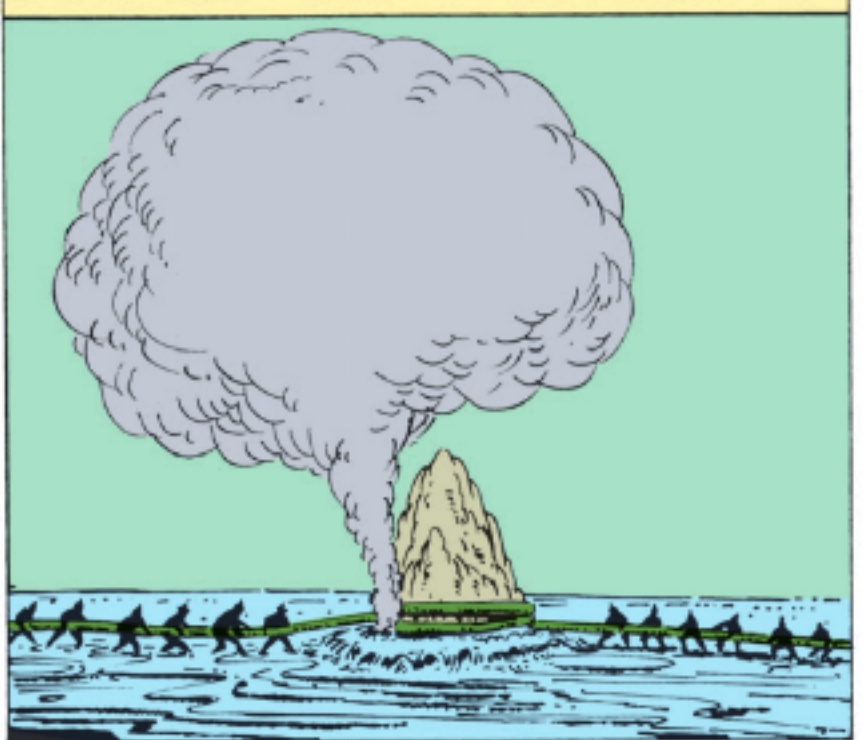
THE DEVAS TOO WERE AFFECTED BY THE FUMES, BUT VISHNU SENT DOWN COOLING SHOWERS TO REVIVE THEM.



STILL THE DEVAS AND ASURAS CONTINUED THEIR TASK AND AS THEY CHURNED, A WHOLE HOST OF FISHES, SNAKES, WHALES WERE CHURNED UP TOO.



THEN THERE AROSE A FEARFUL POISON. IT SPREAD LIKE A THICK PALL OVER THE EARTH.





THIS IS THE  
TERRIBLE POISON,  
HALAHALA!

IT WILL SOON  
COVER THE WORLD  
AND KILL ALL ITS  
CREATURES!



THIS TIME THEY SENT UP  
A CRY TO LORD SHIVA —

LORD  
SHIVA WE ARE  
DYING! PLEASE  
HELP US!



INSTANTLY SHIVA HEEDED THEIR CALL,  
GATHERING UP ALL THE POISON IN  
THE PALM OF HIS HAND...



...HE SWALLOWED IT AND HELD IT IN HIS THROAT.

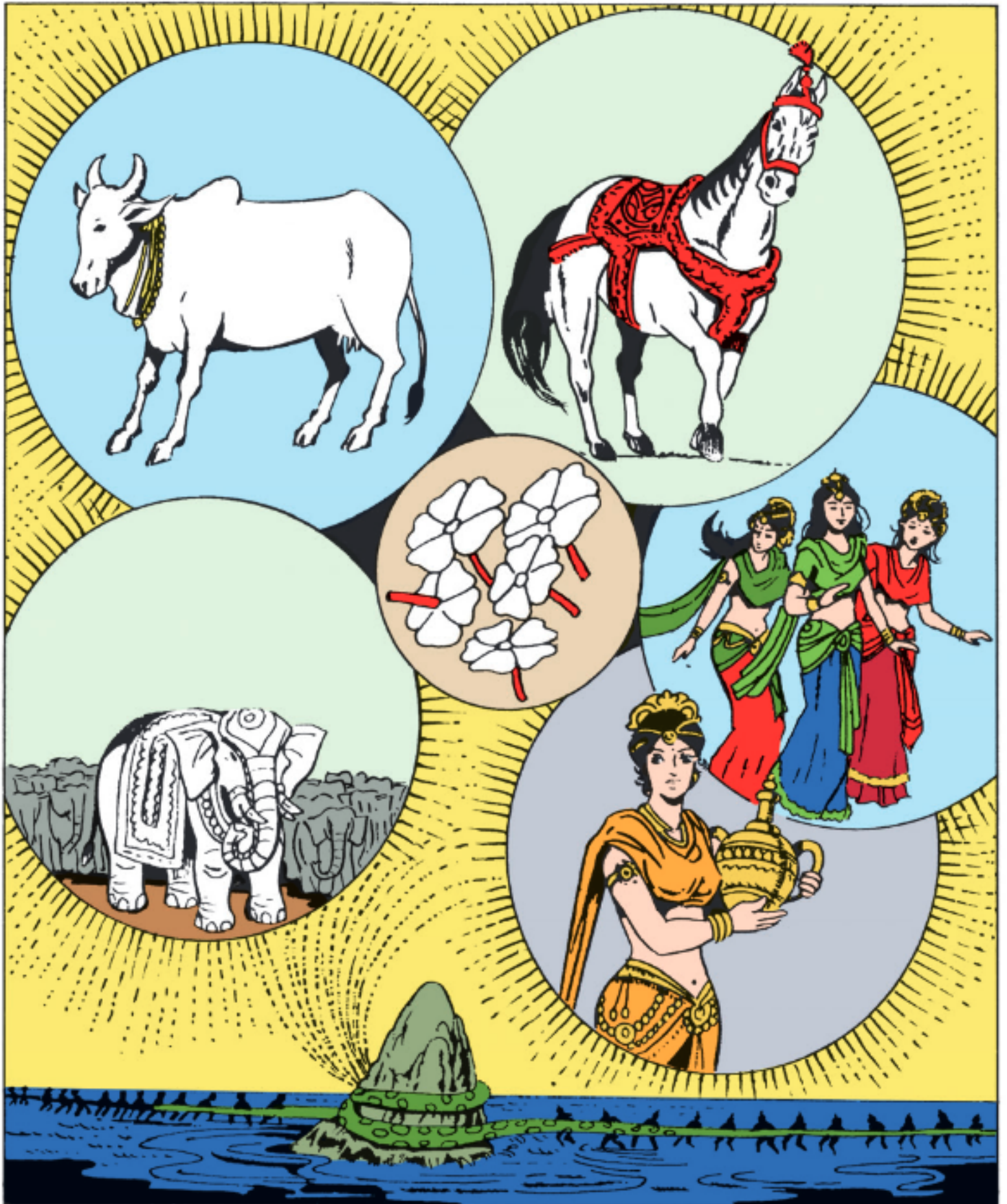


THE POISON MADE HIS THROAT BLUE AND BECAME  
AN ORNAMENT OF SHIVA. FROM THAT TIME ON HE  
HE HAS BEEN KNOWN AS NILAKANTHA.

WE SALUTE YOU,  
O NILAKANTHA, FOR  
RESPONDING TO OUR  
PRAYER!







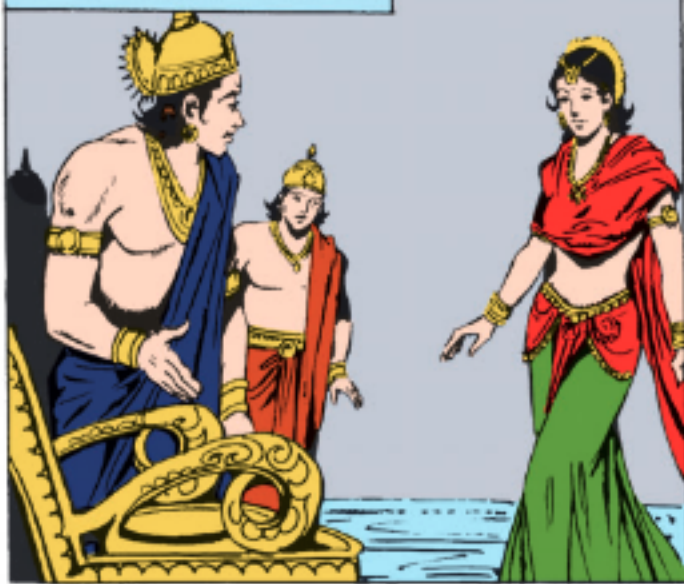
THE DEVAS AND ASURAS RESUMED THEIR CHURNING. BEFORE LONG THERE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN SURABHI, THE DIVINE COW, UCHCHHAISHRAVA, THE HORSE WHITE AS THE MOON AND AIRAVATA, THE WHITE ELEPHANT WITH FOUR TUSKS. THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY A BEVY OF BEAUTIFUL APSARAS. LATER EMERGED THE CELESTIAL PARIJATA TREE AND VARUNI THE GODDESS OF WINE, ROLLING HER INTOXICATING EYES.



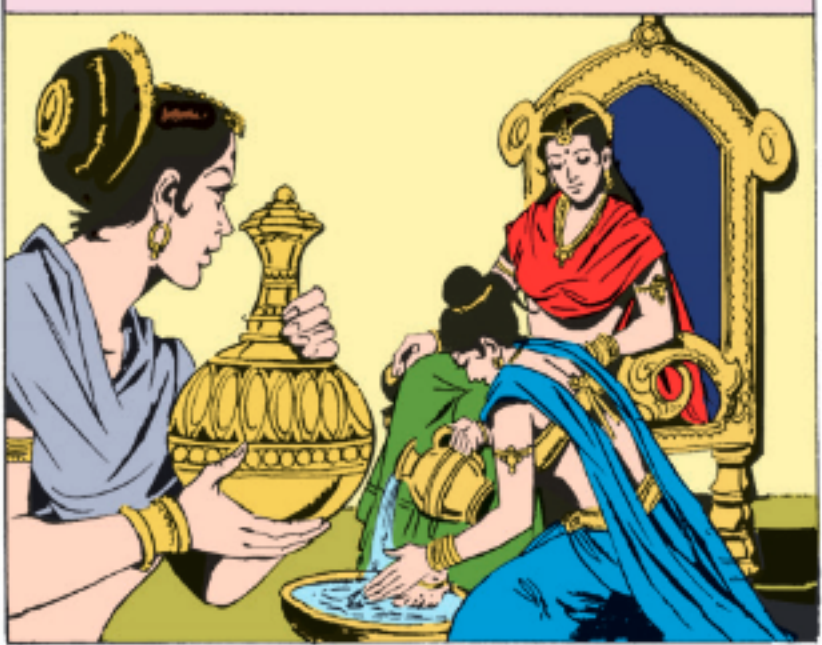
THEN SHREE AROSE FROM THE OCEAN,  
GRACEFUL AND EFFULGENT.



HER BEAUTY WAS SUCH AS TO STIR  
THE MINDS OF THE DEVAS AND ASURAS.  
ALL OF THEM WERE ANXIOUS TO BE  
OF SERVICE TO HER.



GANGA AND OTHER HOLY RIVERS BROUGHT  
WATER IN GOLDEN JARS FOR HER ABLUTIONS.



VASANTA, THE GOD  
OF SPRING, BROUGHT  
FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

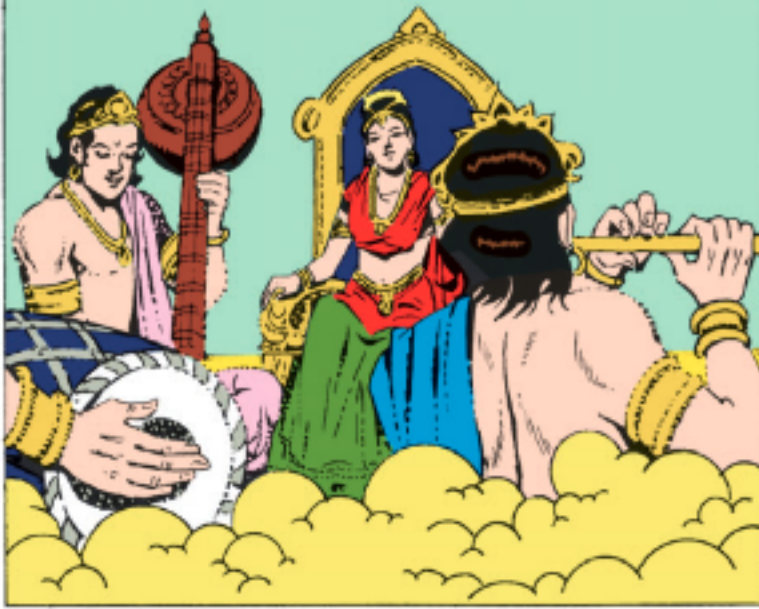


THE APSARAS BEGAN TO DANCE FOR HER.

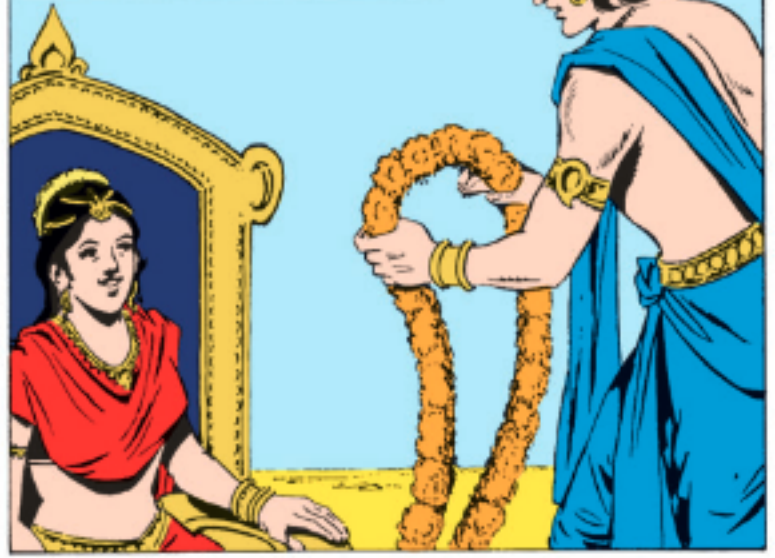




THE CLOUDS RAINED MUSIC FROM A VARIETY OF INSTRUMENTS.



VARUNA, LORD OF THE WATERS, BROUGHT HER THE CELEBRATED VAIJAYANTI GARLAND.



WHEN THE AUSPICIOUS CEREMONIES WERE COMPLETED, SHREE MOVED HERE AND THERE LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO IS THE REPOSITORY OF ALL GOOD QUALITIES.



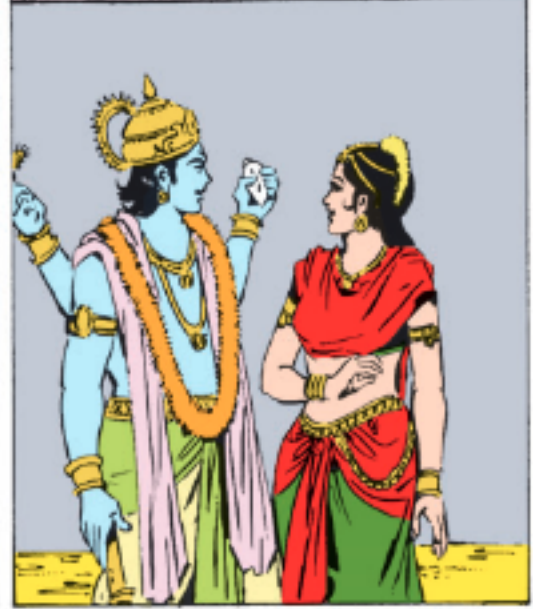
IN THE END, SHE CHOSE LORD VISHNU, WHO IS PERFECT IN EVERY WAY.



SHE PLACED THE BEAUTIFUL VAIJAYANTI GARLAND ROUND HIS NECK.



VISHNU, LORD OF THE THREE WORLDS, ACCEPTED HER.





THE CHURNING CONTINUED.



FINALLY DHANVANTARI, THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN, CAME FORTH, HOLDING THE VESSEL OF CELESTIAL NECTAR.

AT LAST !  
THE DIVINE  
ELIXIR !



THE ASURAS GAVE A GREAT ROAR...



...AND TOOK THE PRECIOUS VESSEL FROM HIM BY FORCE.

ALL IS LOST. O, LORD  
VISHNU, SAVE  
THE PRECIOUS  
NECTAR !

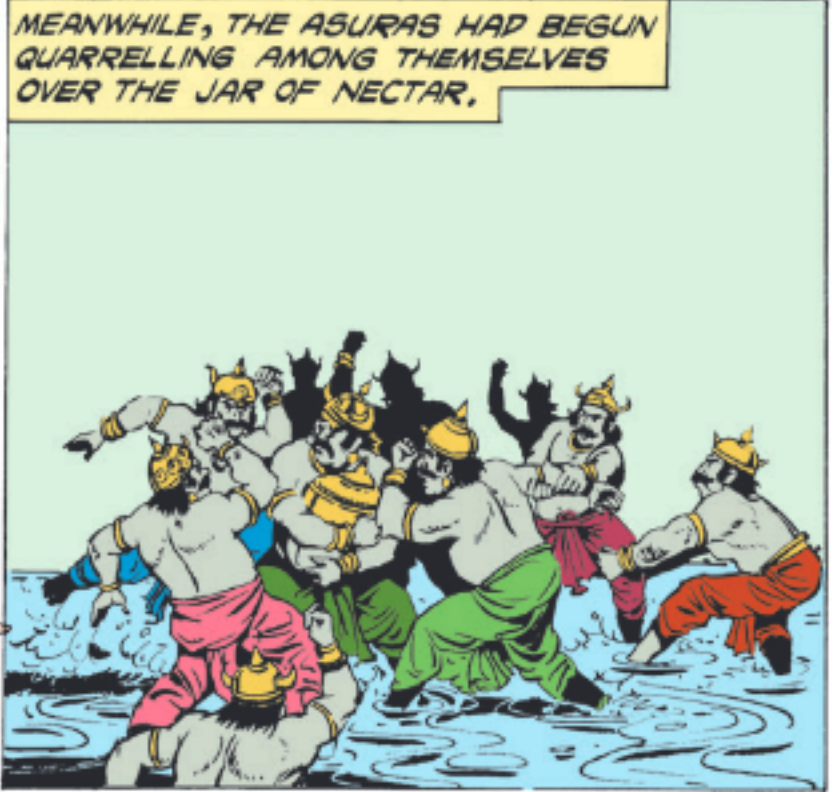




VISHNU AT ONCE ASSUMED THE BEWITCHING FORM OF MOHINI, THE ENCHANTRESS.



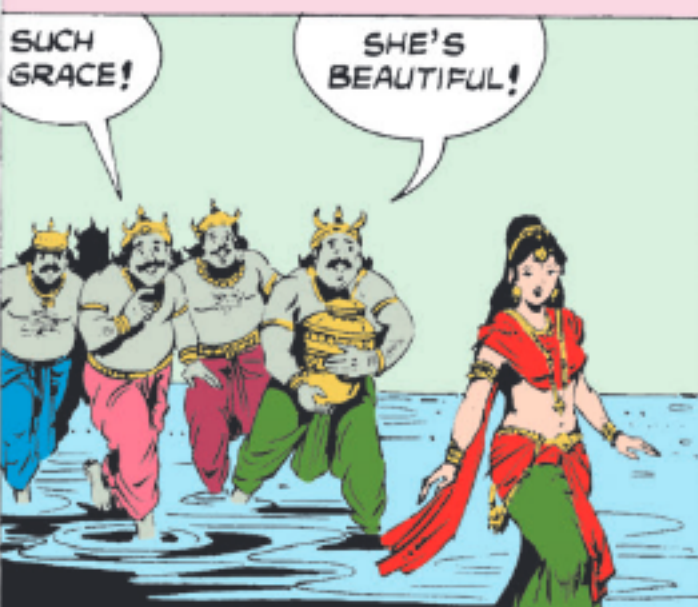
MEANWHILE, THE ASURAS HAD BEGUN QUARRELLING AMONG THEMSELVES OVER THE JAR OF NECTAR.



SUDDENLY, THEY SAW MOHINI APPROACHING THEM WITH SWEET LOOKS AND ENCHANTING SMILES.



INTOXICATED WITH HER BEAUTY, THE ASURAS BEGAN TO FOLLOW HER.



SUCH GRACE!

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!

WHY DON'T WE ASK HER TO DISTRIBUTE THE NECTAR TO US?







MOHINI DECIDED TO TEASE THEM A LITTLE.







MOHINI FIRST GAVE THE NECTAR TO ALL THE DEVAS TO DRINK...





BUT ONE OF THE ASURAS WHOSE NAME WAS RAHU, BECAME SUSPICIOUS.



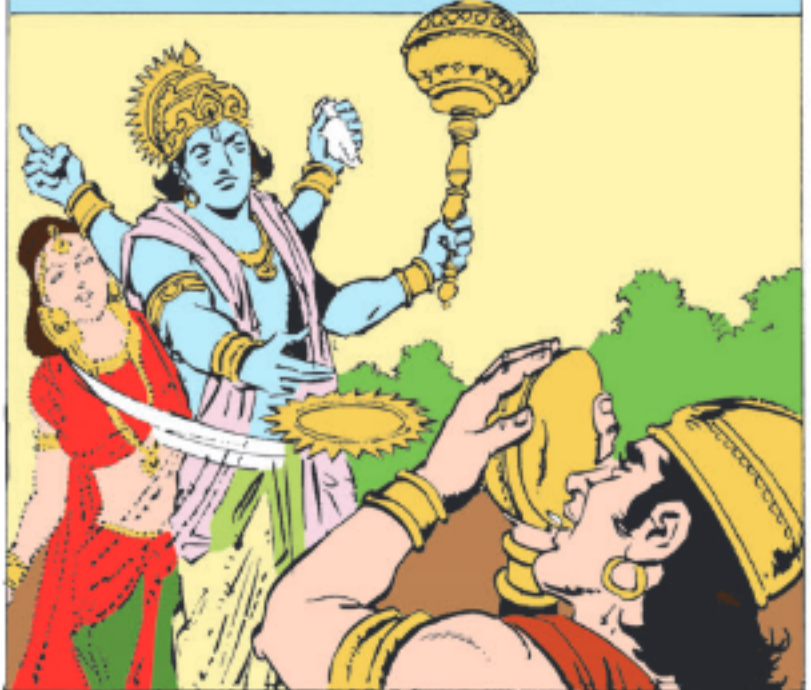
SO RAHU ASSUMED THE FORM OF DEVA AND QUIETLY CROSSED OVER.



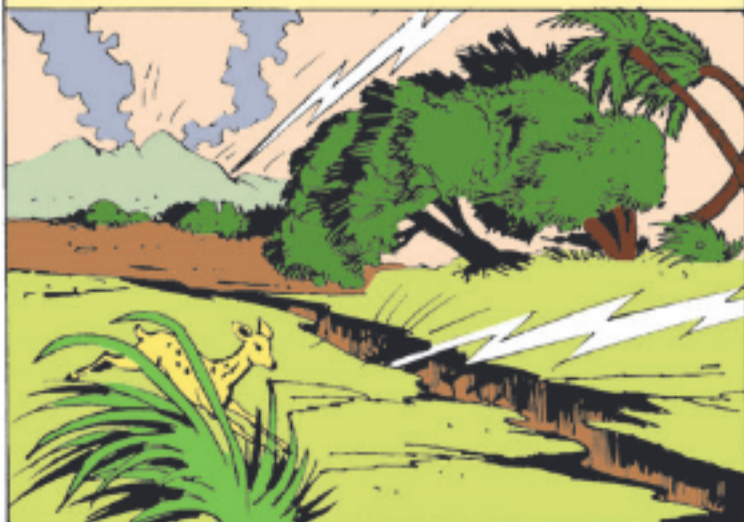
FORTUNATELY, SURYA, THE SUN, AND SOMA, THE MOON, WERE WATCHFUL.



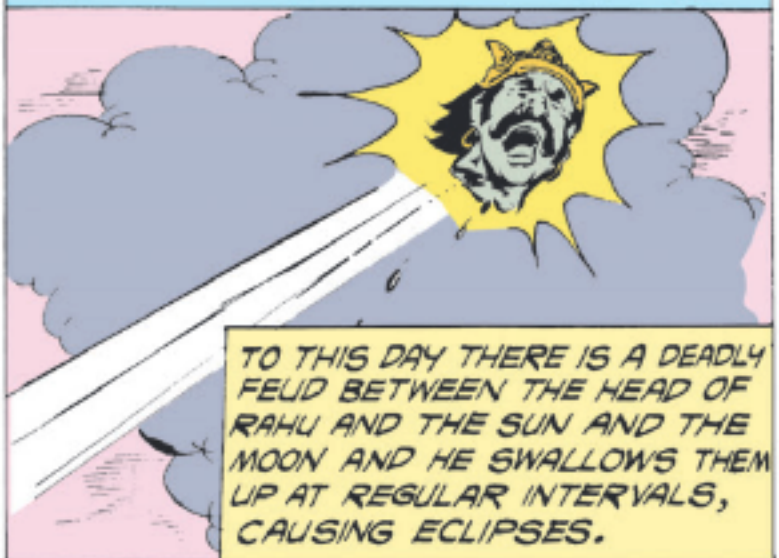
THE NECTAR HAD BARELY REACHED RAHU'S THROAT. INSTANTLY VISHNU HURLED HIS CHAKRA AT HIM TO CUT OFF THE WELL-ADORNED HEAD OF THE ASURA.



AS THE HUGE HEADLESS TRUNK OF THE ASURA FELL DOWN, IT CAUSED THE EARTH TO QUAKE AND THE MOUNTAINS TO RUMBLE.



AND THE SEVERED HEAD OF THE ASURA ROSE TO THE SKY ROARING HORRIBLY.





AT LAST, THE TRUTH DAWNED ON THE ASURAS!

THAT'S NO ENCHANTRESS!  
THAT'S VISHNU!

WE'VE  
BEEN  
TRICKED!



THEY BEGAN TO SCREAM AND MAKE  
A TERRIFIC DIN.

GIVE US THE  
NECTAR!

IT'S  
OURS!



AMID GREAT TUMULT AND EXCITEMENT  
MANY MORE OF THE GODS QUICKLY  
PARTOOK OF THE NECTAR WHICH THEY  
SO GREATLY DESIRED AND THEY BECAME  
IMMORTAL.



MEANWHILE THE ASURAS HAD BEEN  
ARMING THEMSELVES WITH VARIOUS  
WEAPONS.

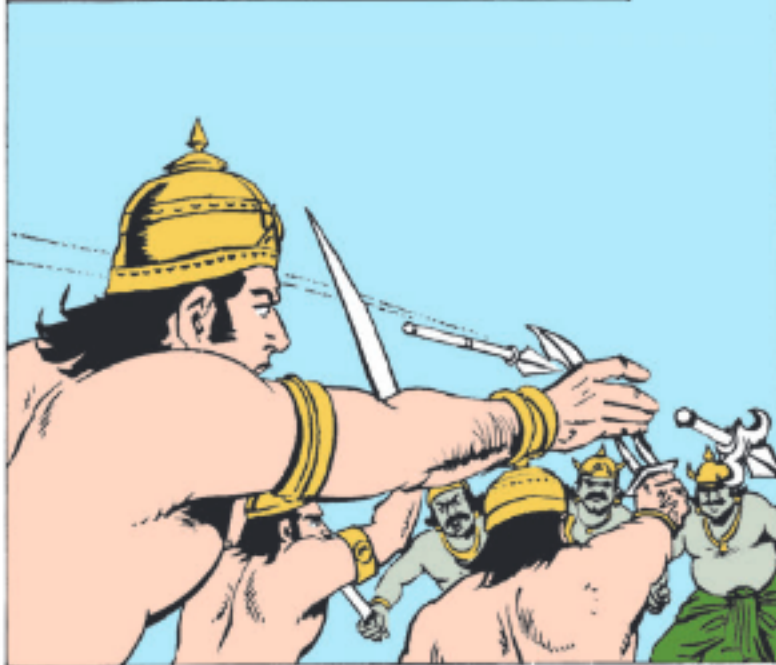


THEN, ON THE SHORES OF THE OCEAN,  
BEGAN THE GREAT BATTLE BETWEEN  
THE DEVAS AND THE ASURAS.





SHARP POINTED JAVELINS AND LANCES WERE HURLED AT THE ASURAS.



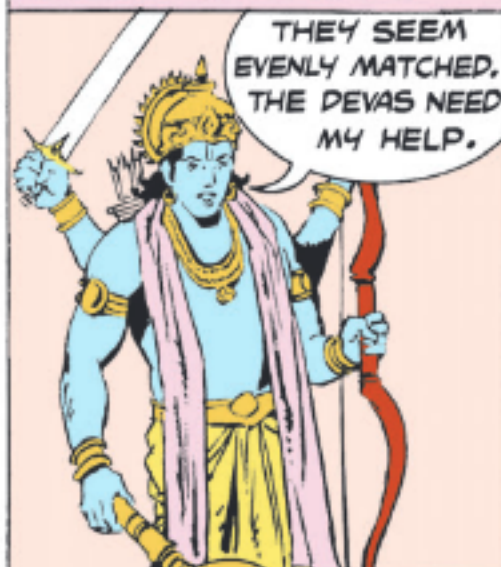
THE ASURAS DIED IN LARGE NUMBERS THEIR HEADS ADORNED WITH BRIGHT GOLD FELL ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.



WAR CRIES AND CRIES OF PAIN INTERMINGLED.



AT THE HEIGHT OF THIS FIERCE BATTLE, VISHNU ENTERED THE FIELD.



THEY SEEM EVENLY MATCHED. THE DEVAS NEED MY HELP.



AS SOON AS HE THOUGHT OF IT, HIS OWN INCOMPARABLE DISCUS, THE SHINING SUDARSHANA CHAKRA, CAME THROUGH THE SKY.





VISHNU AIMED THE SUDHARSHANA AT THE ASURAS. IT FLEW EVERYWHERE DESTROYING THOUSANDS OF ASURAS.



AT OTHER TIMES, IT BLAZED LIKE FIRE AND BURNED EVERYTHING AROUND IT.



BUT THE ASURAS WERE NOT YET DAUNTED. THEY ROSE SKYWARDS...



...AND HURLED HUGE MOUNTAINS AT THE DEVAS.



THE MOUNTAINS COLLIDING WITH EACH OTHER PRODUCED A TREMENDOUS UPROAR.



THE EARTH AND THE FORESTS BEGAN TO TREMBLE.





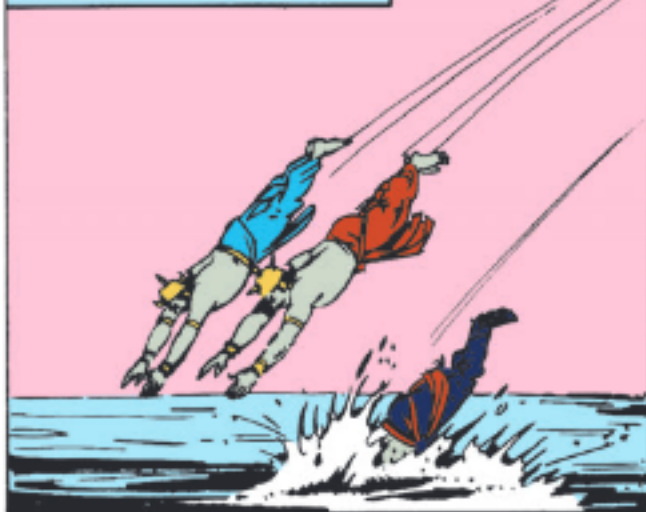
AGAIN THE DIVINE VISHNU CAME TO THE AID OF THE DEVAS. SHOOTING GOLDEN-HEADED ARROWS AT THE FALLING MOUNTAINS, HE REDUCED THEM TO DUST.



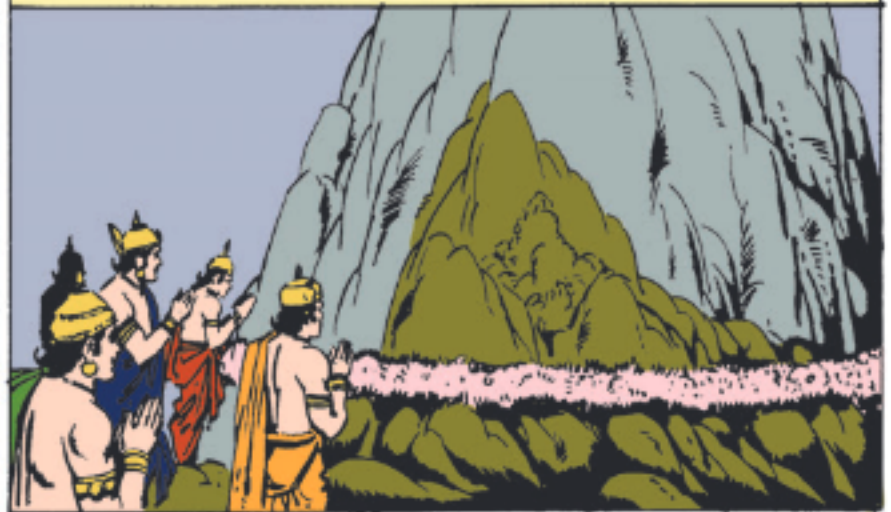
THE ASURAS WERE DEFEATED. THEY COULD FIGHT BACK NO MORE. SHRIEKING LOUDLY, SOME OF THEM ENTERED THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH, WHILE ...



...OTHERS PLUNGED INTO THE OCEAN.



THE VICTORIOUS DEVAS PUT MOUNT MANDARA BACK IN ITS OLD PLACE AND DID OBEISANCE TO IT.

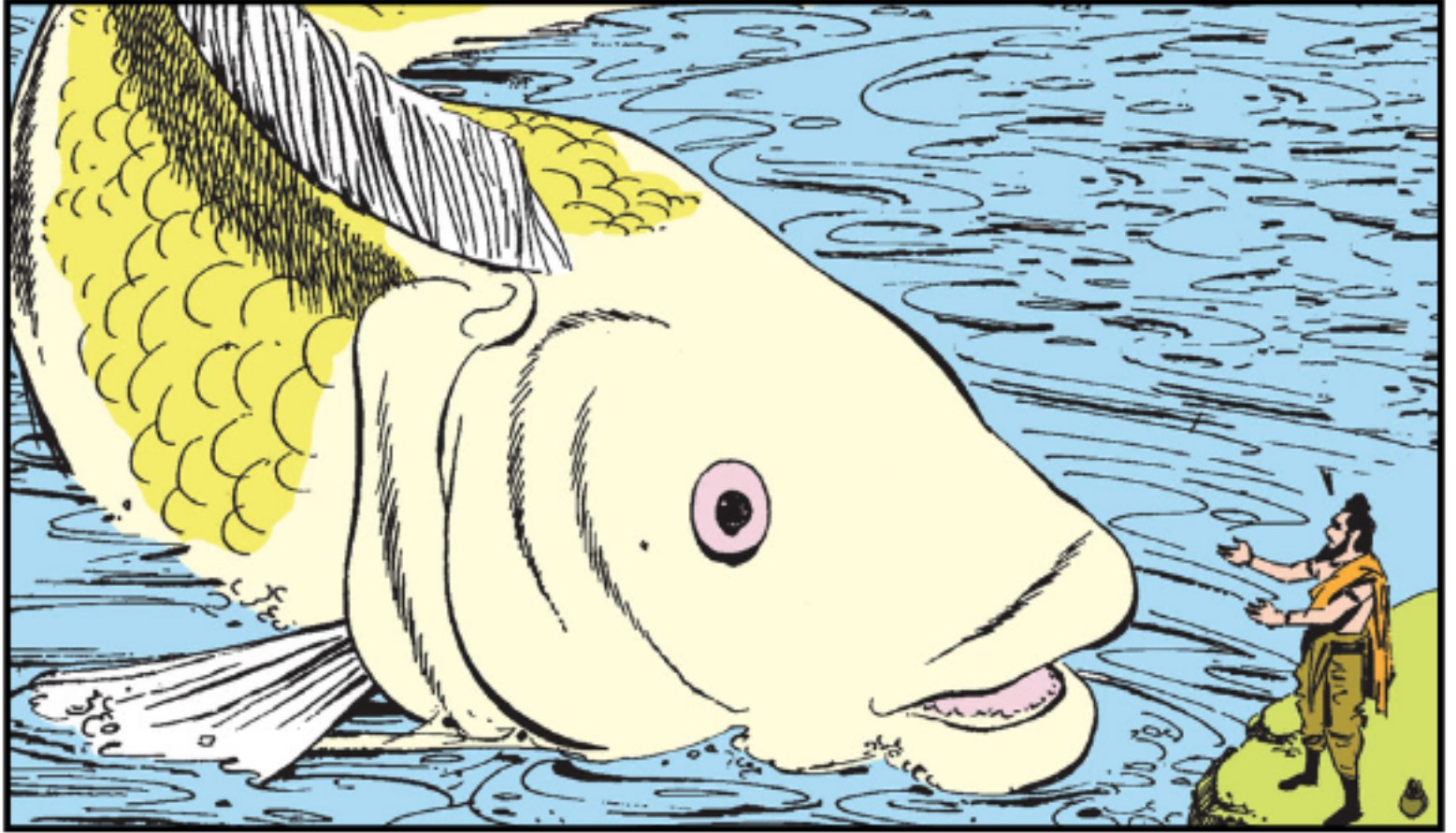


THEN THE SKIES RESOUNDED WITH JOYOUS SHOUTS AS THE DEVAS, HAVING BEEN RENDERED PERFECT AFTER DRINKING THE CELESTIAL NECTAR, RETURNED TO THEIR OWN ABODES.



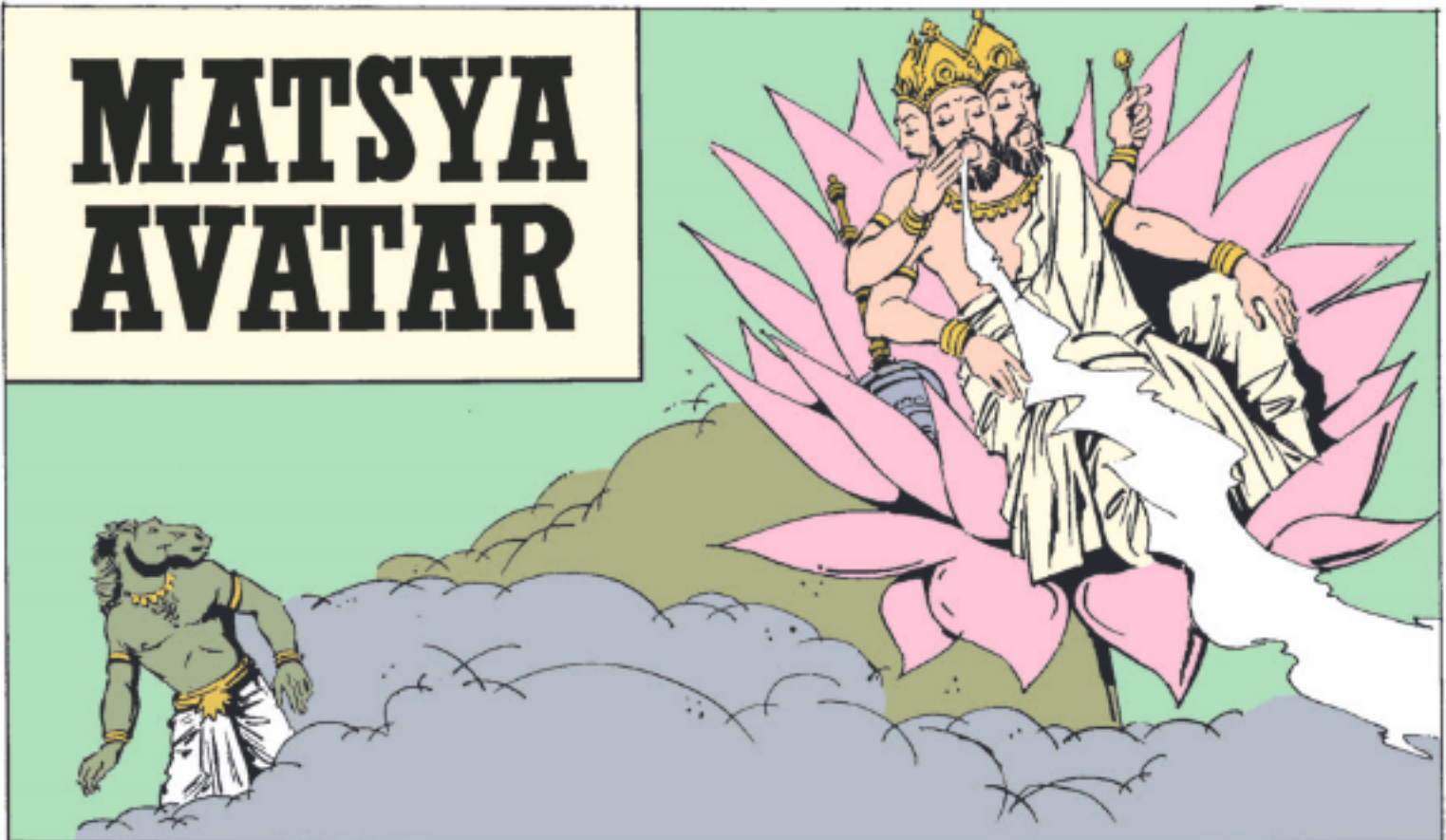


# MATSYA AVATAR





# MATSYA AVATAR



EXHAUSTED, BRAHMA STRETCHED OUT AND YAWNED. HIS DAY'S WORK WAS OVER. THE END OF THE CURRENT KALPA WAS IMMINENT. AS HIS EYE-LIDS DROOPED WITH SLEEP, WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE THE VEDAS SLIPPED OUT OF HIS MOUTH.

THE ASURA, HAYAGRIVA, WAS ALERT.

THIS IS MY CHANCE!  
I MUST NOW  
CONCENTRATE WITH  
ALL MY MIND AND  
THE VEDAS FALLING  
OUT OF THE CREA-  
TOR'S MOUTH  
WILL ENTER  
MINE.



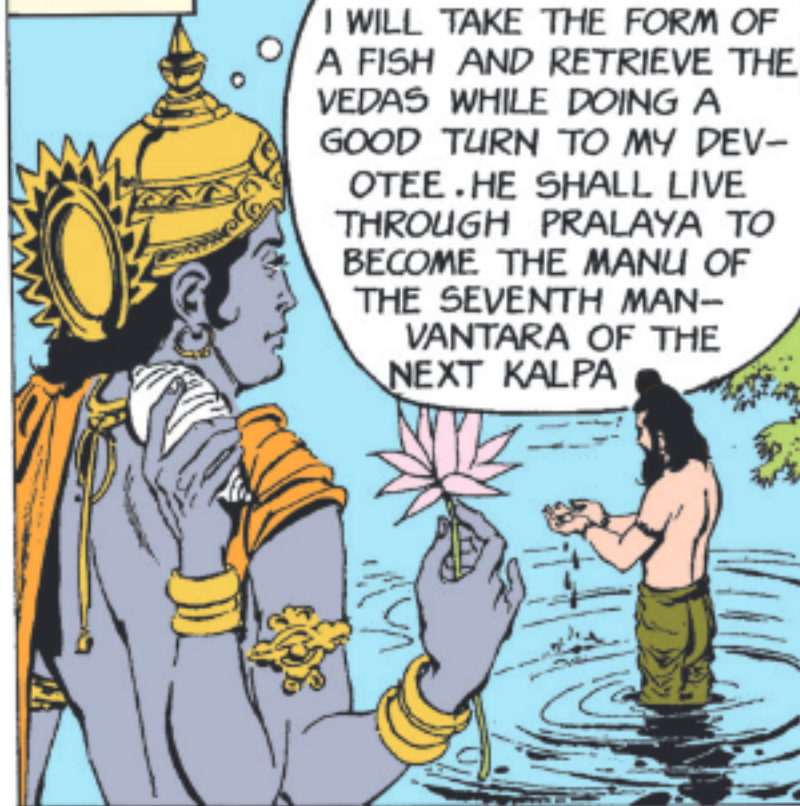
BUT VISHNU, THE PRESERVER, CAUGHT HAYAGRIVA IN THE ACT.

THE ASURA IS  
ABSORBING THE  
VEDAS. THEY WILL  
BE LOST TO THE  
NEXT KALPA. I MUST  
RETRIEVE THEM.  
THERE ARE BUT A  
FEW DAYS LEFT  
FOR PRALAYA.\*

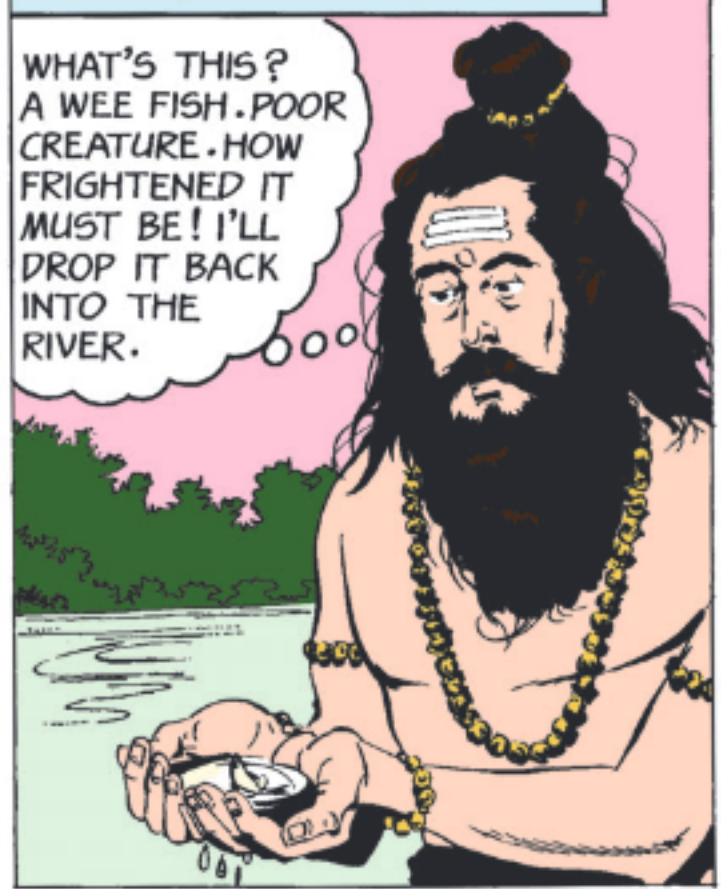




AS HE WONDERED WHAT TO DO, HE SAW THE ROYAL SAGE, SATYAVRATA, A STAUNCH DEVOTEE, OFFERING WATER TO THE MANES.



AS SATYAVRATA, SCOOPED UP THE NEXT HANDFUL OF WATER —



HE WAS ABOUT TO DO SO WHEN —



SATYAVRATA WAS MOVED.



HE PUT THE FISH INTO HIS KAMANDALU ...

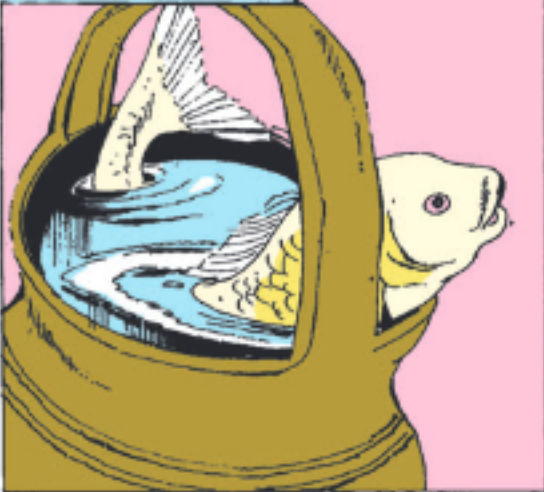


...AND TOOK IT TO HIS HERMITAGE.



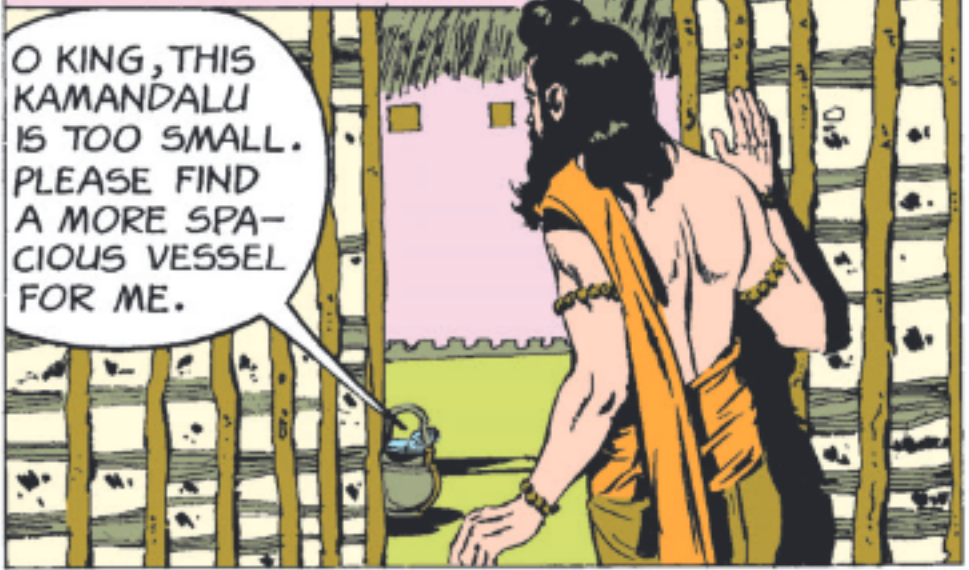


THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, THE FISH GREW AND GREW TILL IT FILLED THE WHOLE KAMANDALU.



IN THE MORNING WHEN SATYAVRATA WENT TO SEE IF IT WAS ALL RIGHT —

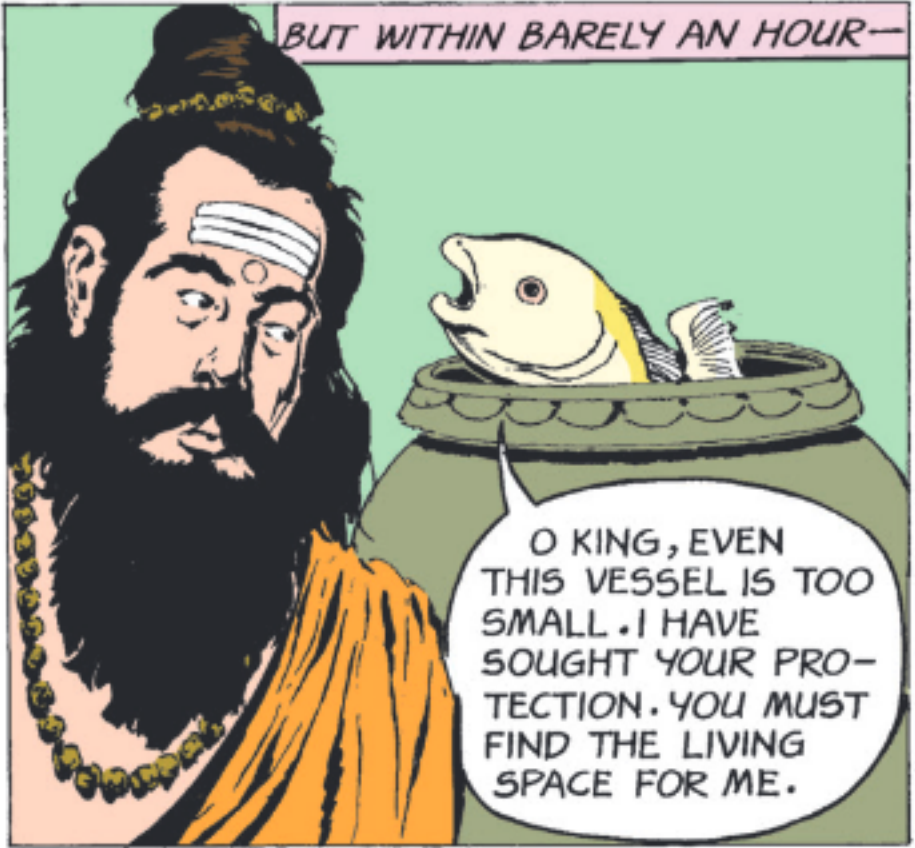
O KING, THIS KAMANDALU IS TOO SMALL. PLEASE FIND A MORE SPACIOUS VESSEL FOR ME.



REMOVING IT FROM THE KAMANDALU, SATYAVRATA PLACED IT IN A LARGE VESSEL OF WATER.



BUT WITHIN BARELY AN HOUR —

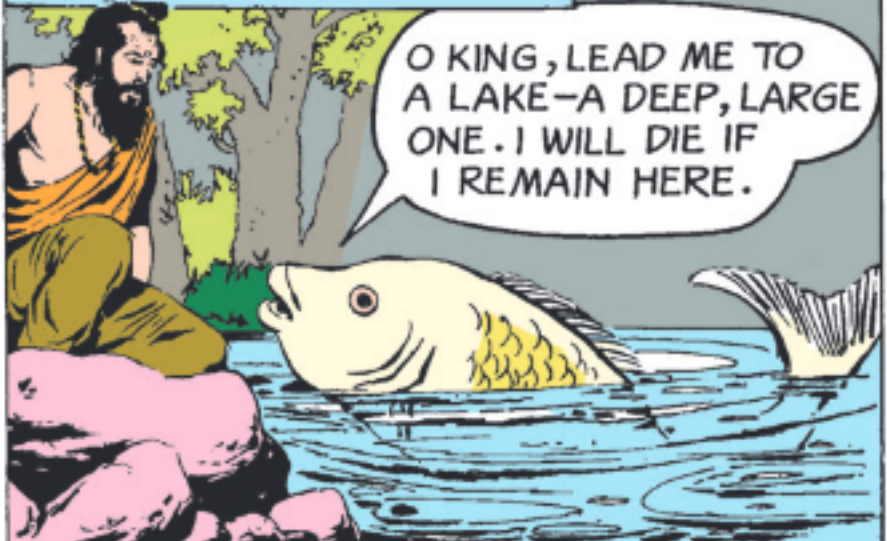


O KING, EVEN THIS VESSEL IS TOO SMALL. I HAVE SOUGHT YOUR PROTECTION. YOU MUST FIND THE LIVING SPACE FOR ME.

SATYAVRATA PUSHED THE VESSEL TO A LARGE POND NEAR THE HERMITAGE AND TIPPED THE FISH INTO IT.



BUT IN NO TIME, THE FISH GREW TILL IT FILLED THE WHOLE POND.



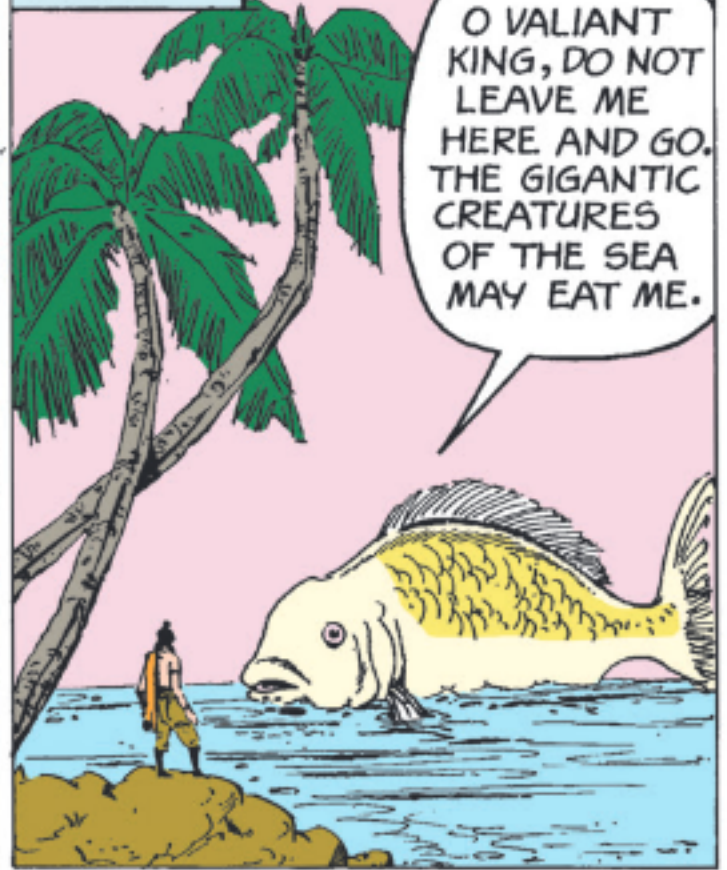
O KING, LEAD ME TO A LAKE — A DEEP, LARGE ONE. I WILL DIE IF I REMAIN HERE.



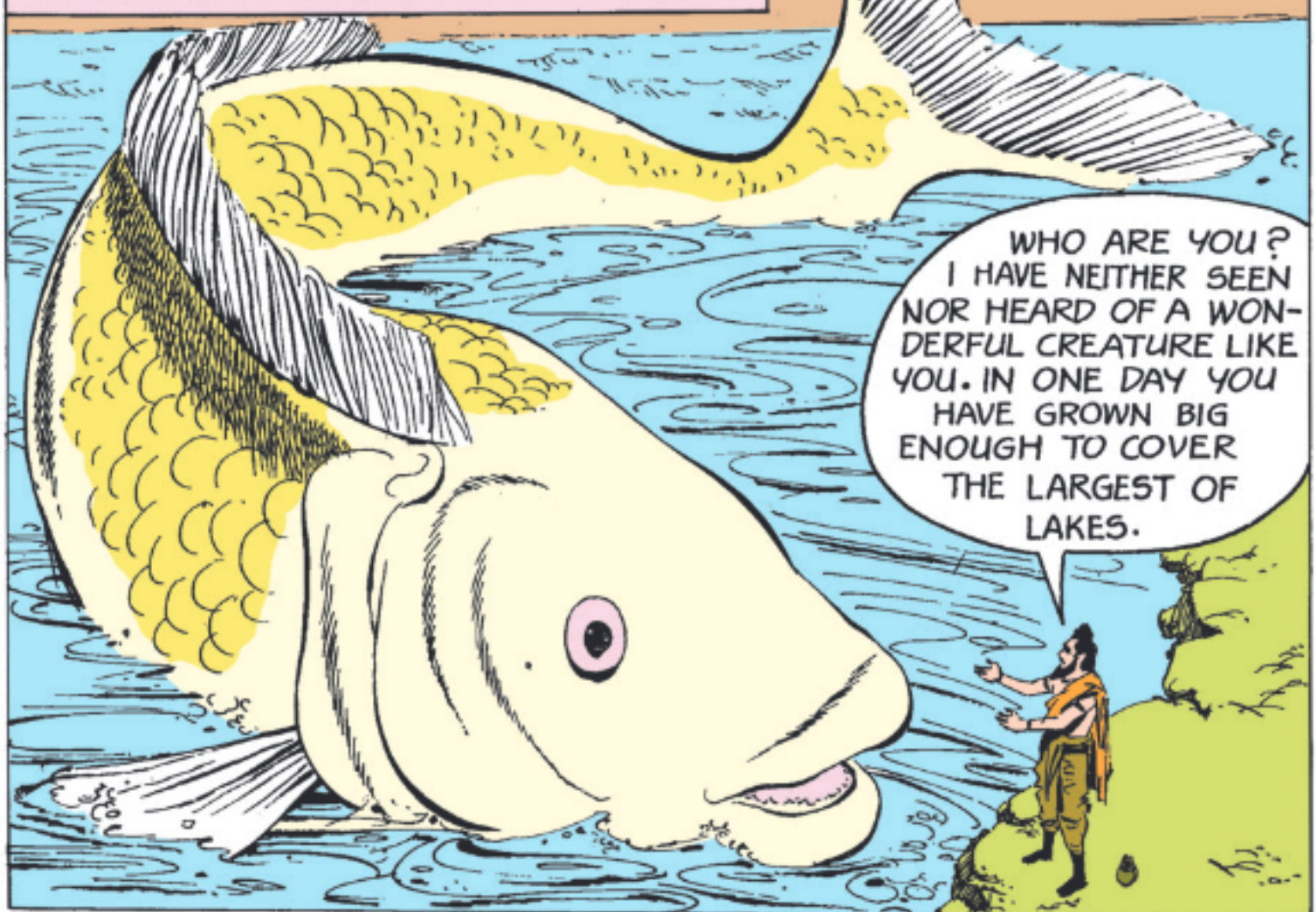
SATYAVRATA TOOK THE FISH TO A NUMBER OF LAKES, EACH LARGER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. BUT —



EXASPERATED, SATYAVRATA DECIDED TO LEAD IT TO THE OCEAN. BUT WHEN THEY GOT THERE —



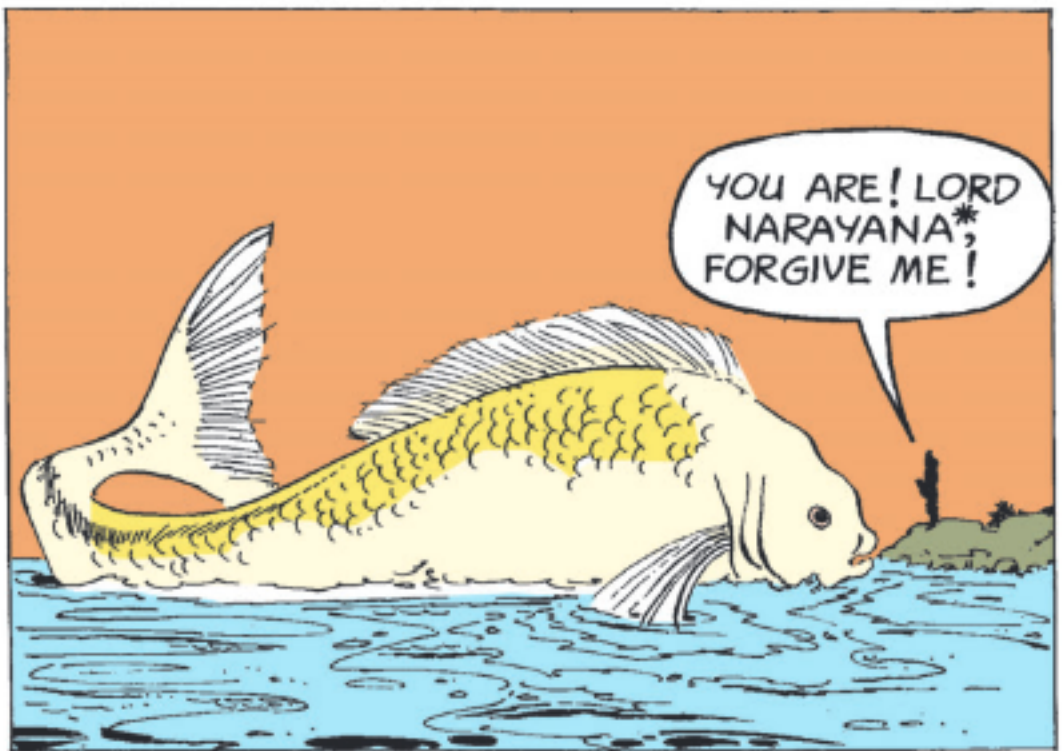
SATYAVRATA NOW BECAME SUSPICIOUS.



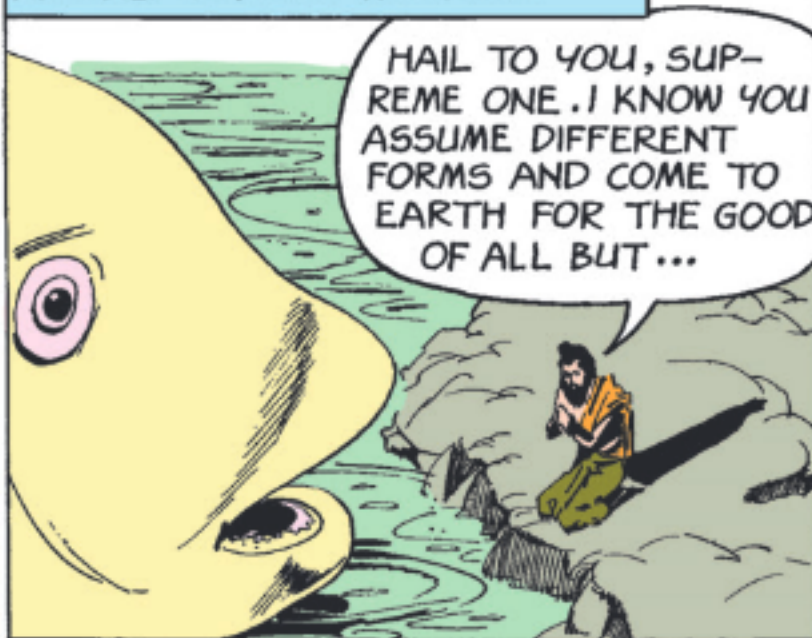




COULD  
YOU  
BE ... ?

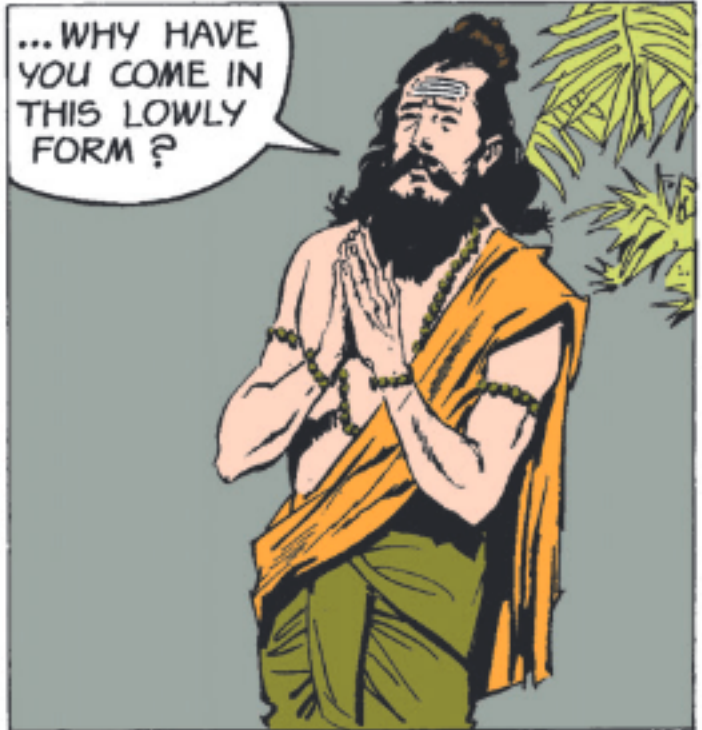


AND SATYAVRATA PROSTRATED  
HIMSELF BEFORE THE FISH.

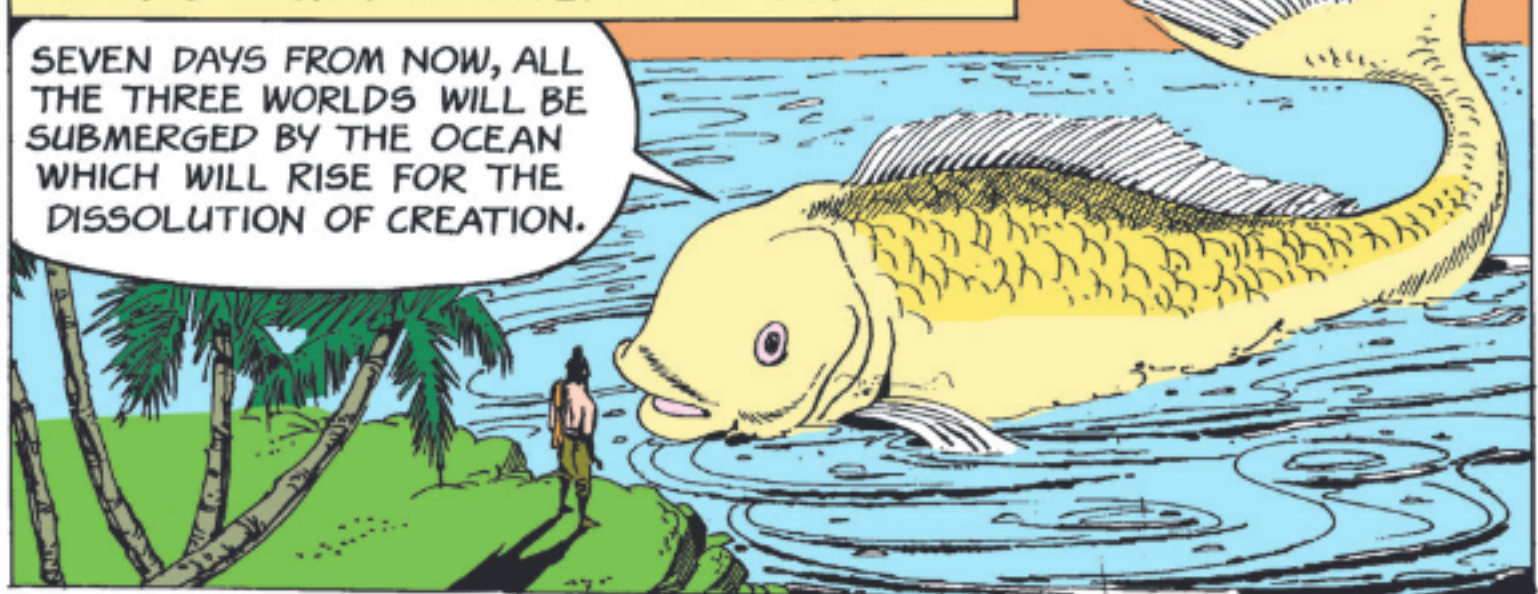


HAIL TO YOU, SUPREME ONE. I KNOW YOU ASSUME DIFFERENT FORMS AND COME TO EARTH FOR THE GOOD OF ALL BUT...

...WHY HAVE  
YOU COME IN  
THIS LOWLY  
FORM ?



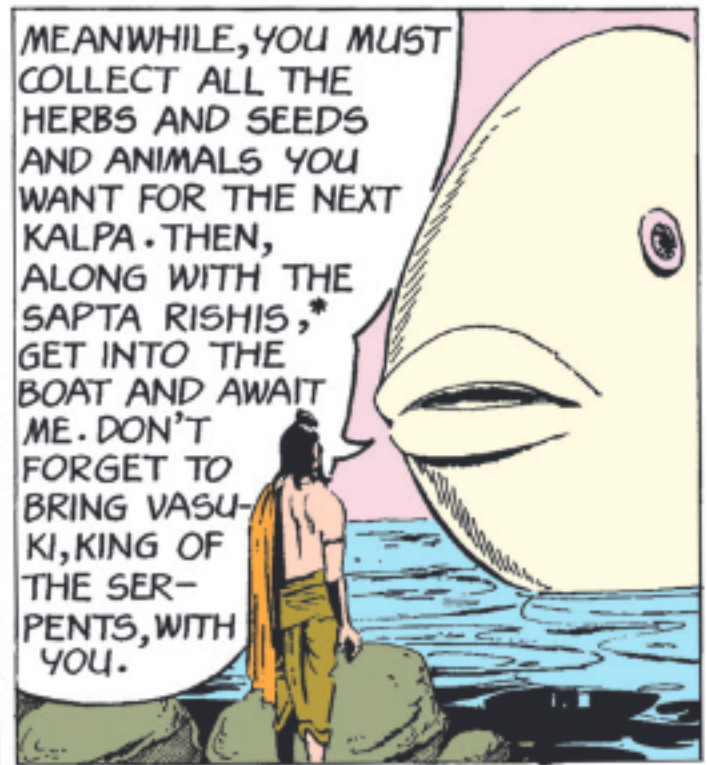
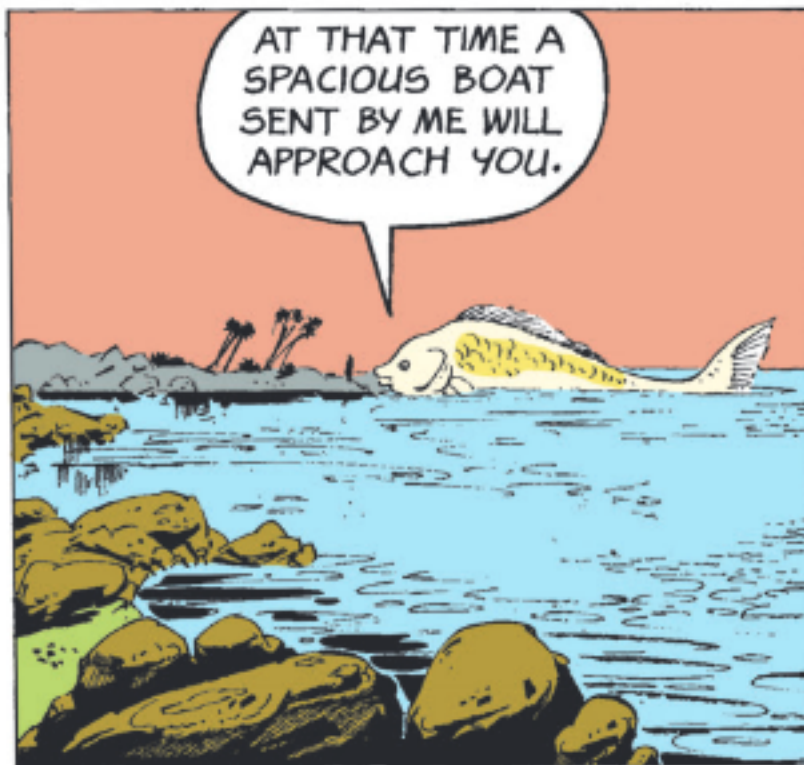
THE LORD LOOKED LOVINGLY AT HIS DEVOTEE.



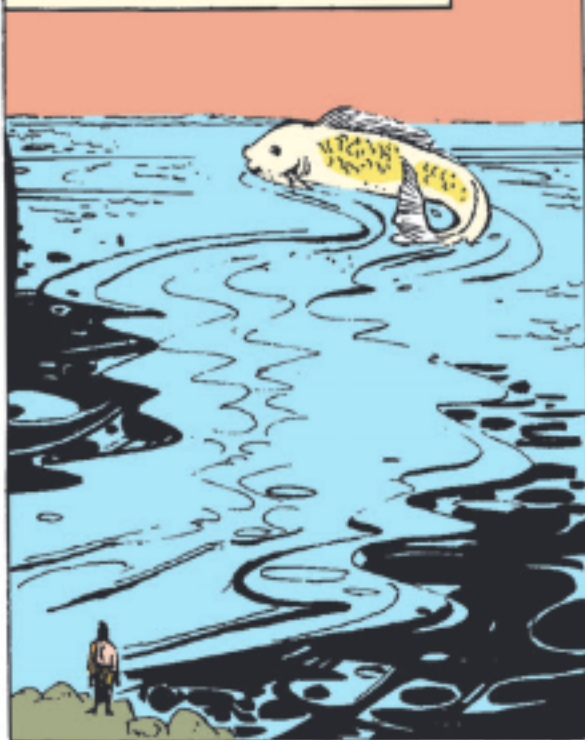
SEVEN DAYS FROM NOW, ALL THE THREE WORLDS WILL BE SUBMERGED BY THE OCEAN WHICH WILL RISE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF CREATION.

\*ANOTHER NAME OF VISHNU.





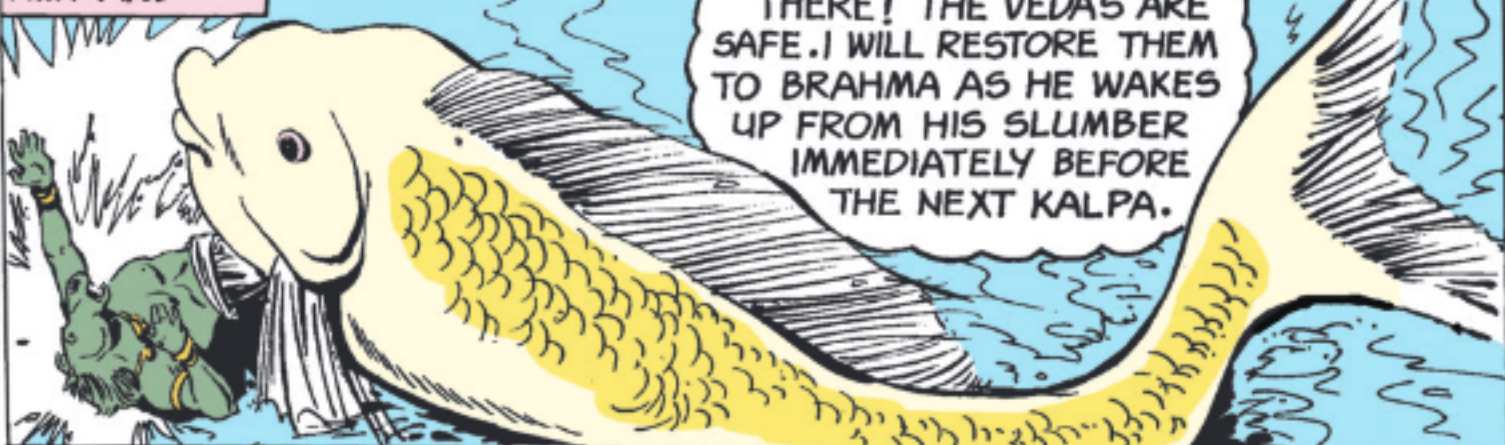
AND THE FISH SET OFF ON ITS OTHER MISSION.



WHEN HAYAGRIVA SAW THE GIGANTIC FISH APPROACH, HE WAS FILLED WITH TERROR.

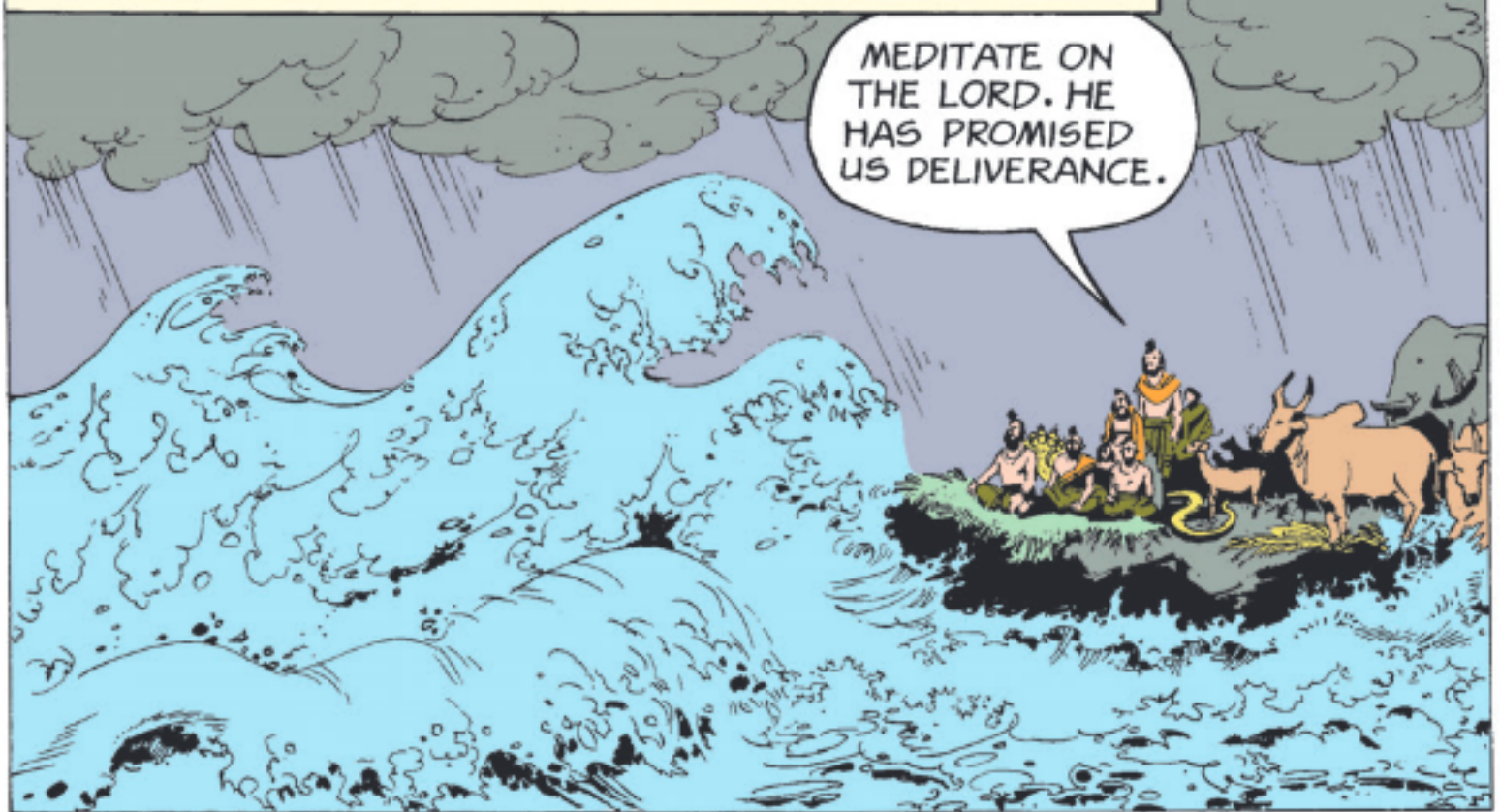


THAT WAS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. THE FISH SOON PUT AN END TO HIM AND —





SEVEN DAYS LATER, HUGE CLOUDS GATHERED OVER THE OCEAN. THE RAIN POURED DOWN IN TORRENTS. THE OCEAN BEGAN RISING AND HUGE TIDAL WAVES BEGAN SWALLOWING THE EARTH.

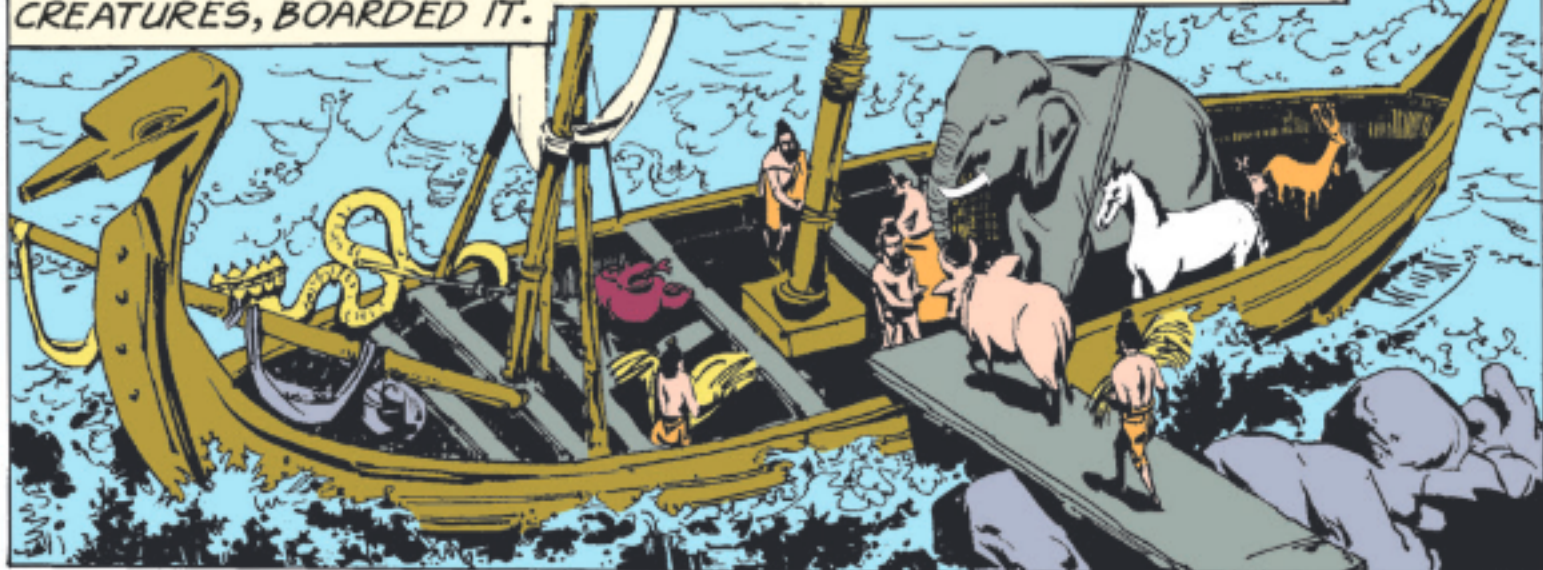


AS ADVISED BY THE FISH, SATYAVRATA AND THE SAPTA RISHIS WAITED ON THE SHORES. SUDDENLY —

AH! THERE COMES THE BOAT AS THE LORD HAD PROMISED. BE PREPARED TO GO ON BOARD.

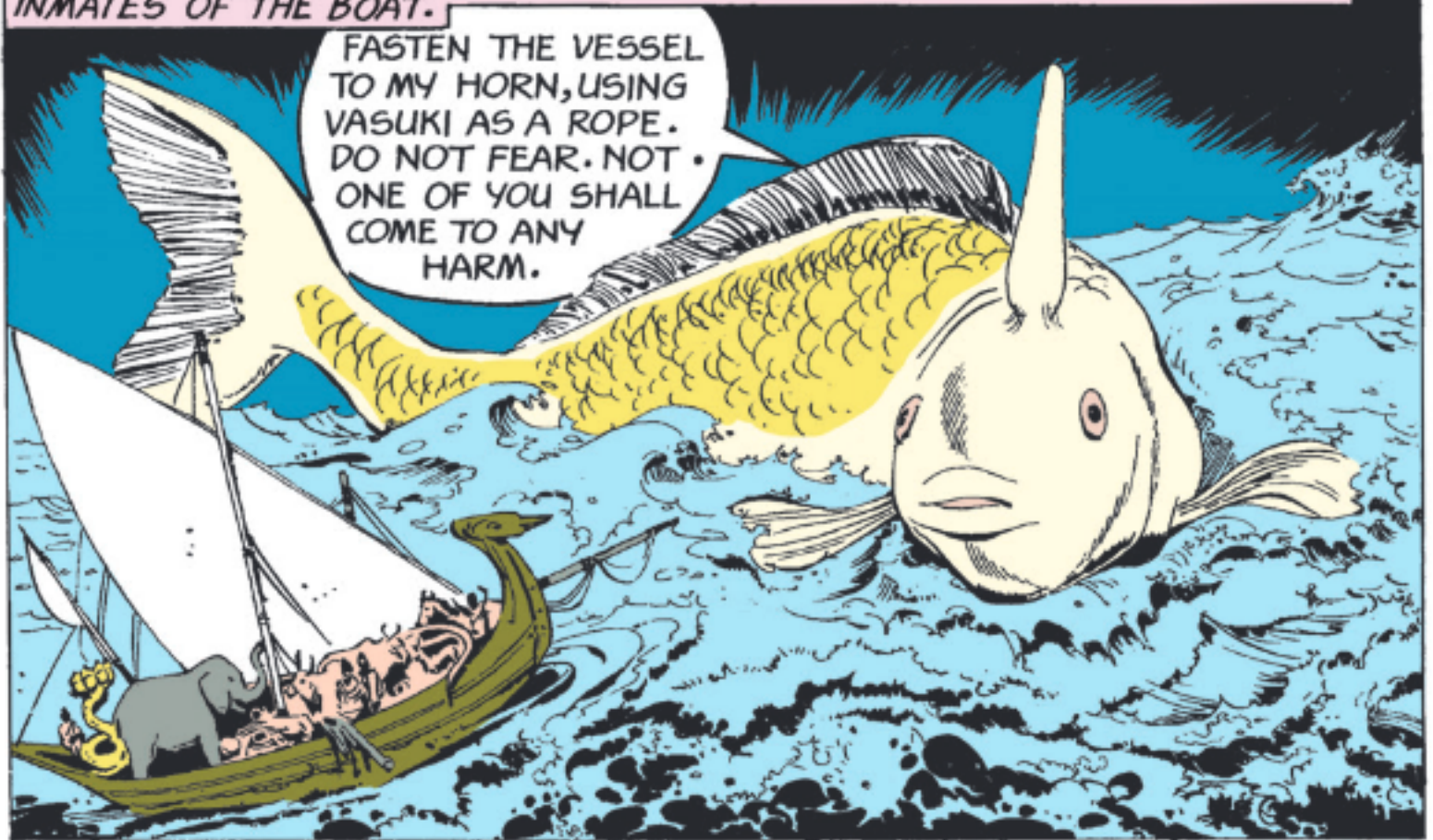


AS SOON AS THE VESSEL TOUCHED THE SHORES, SATYAVRATA, ALONG WITH THE SAPTA RISHIS AND THE SELECT LIVING CREATURES, BOARDED IT.

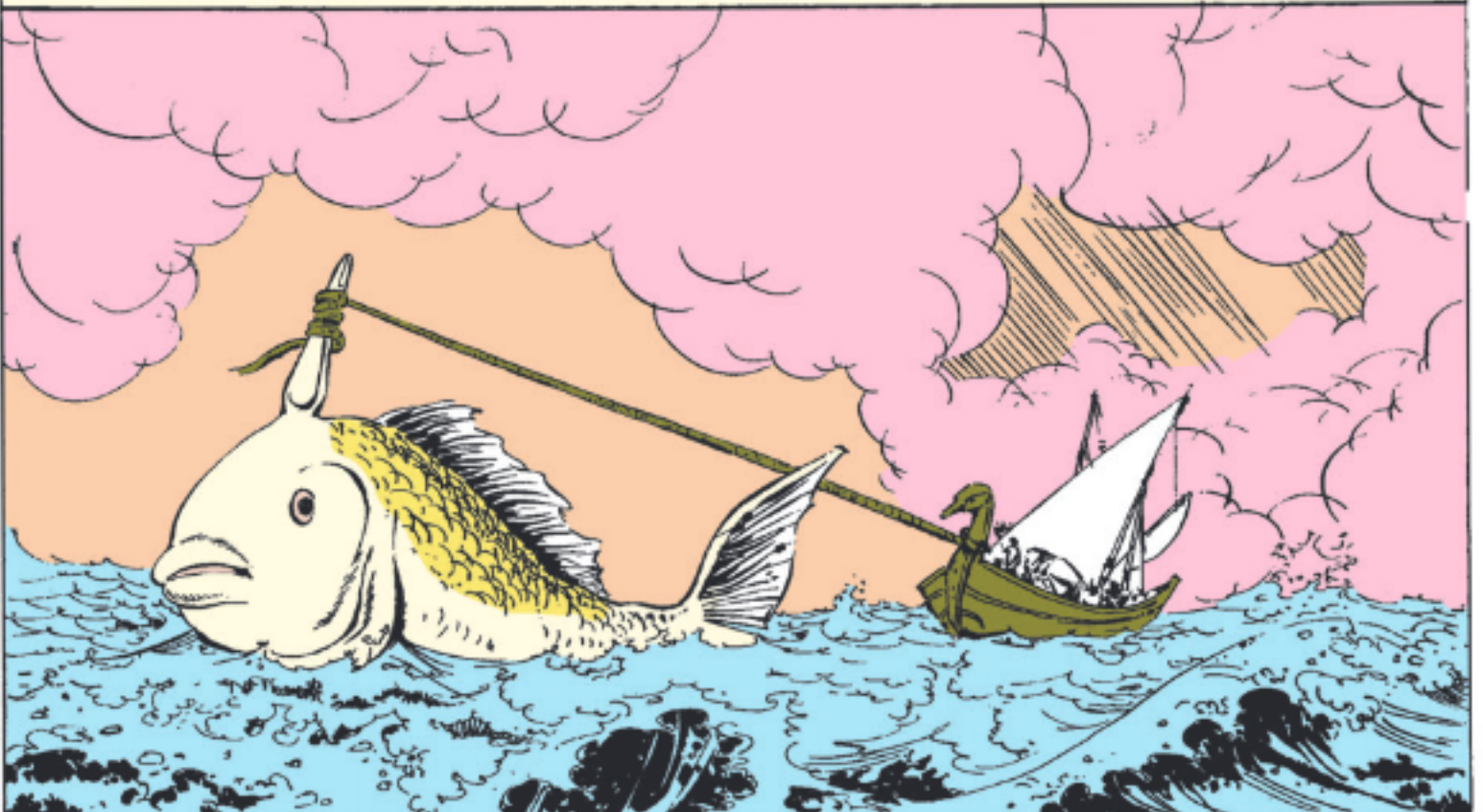




AS THEIR BOAT WAS TOSSED ABOUT BY THE TURBULENT OCEAN, THEY SUDDENLY SAW THE FISH APPROACH THEM. IT HAD A HORN NOW AND WAS GOLDEN IN COLOUR. IT LIT UP THE DARKENING SKIES, REASSURING THE INMATES OF THE BOAT.



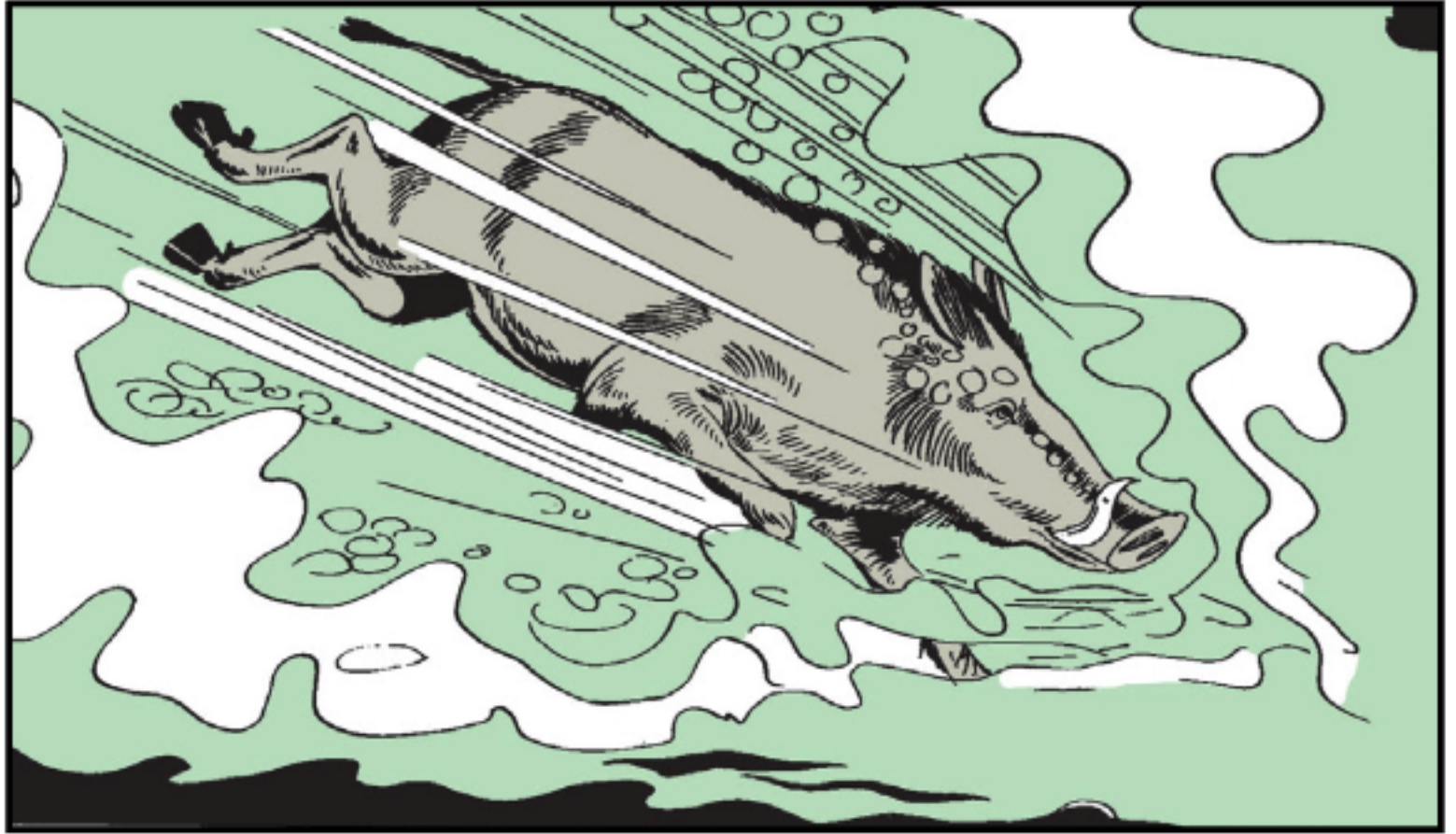
WHILE THEY SAILED ON THAT VAST EXPANSE OF WATER, THROUGHOUT THAT NIGHT\* OF BRAHMA, VISHNU TAUGHT SATYAVRATA AND THE SAPTA RISHIS THE HIGHEST FORM OF TRUTH WHICH HAS COME DOWN TO US AS A COLLECTION OF PURANIC LORE, CALLED THE MATSYA PURANA. THUS DID VISHNU SAVE TRUE DEVOTEES FROM DISSOLUTION SO THAT THEY MIGHT CARRY DIVINE KNOWLEDGE TO THE NEXT KALPA.



\* EQUIVALENT TO A DAY OF BRAHMA.

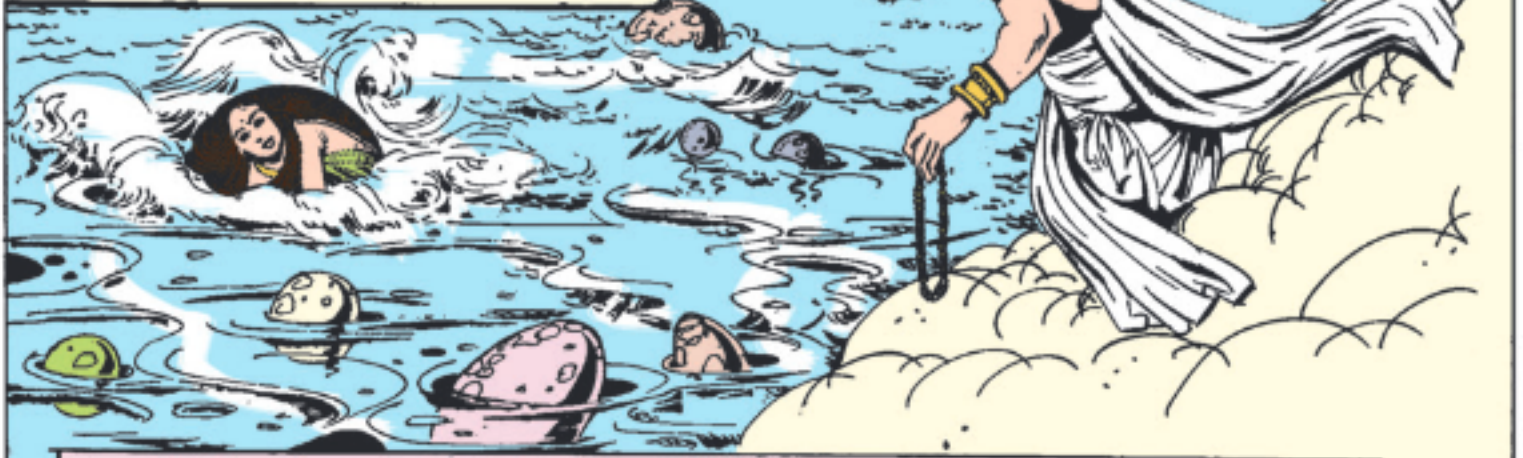


# VARAHA AVATAR





# VARAHA AVATAR

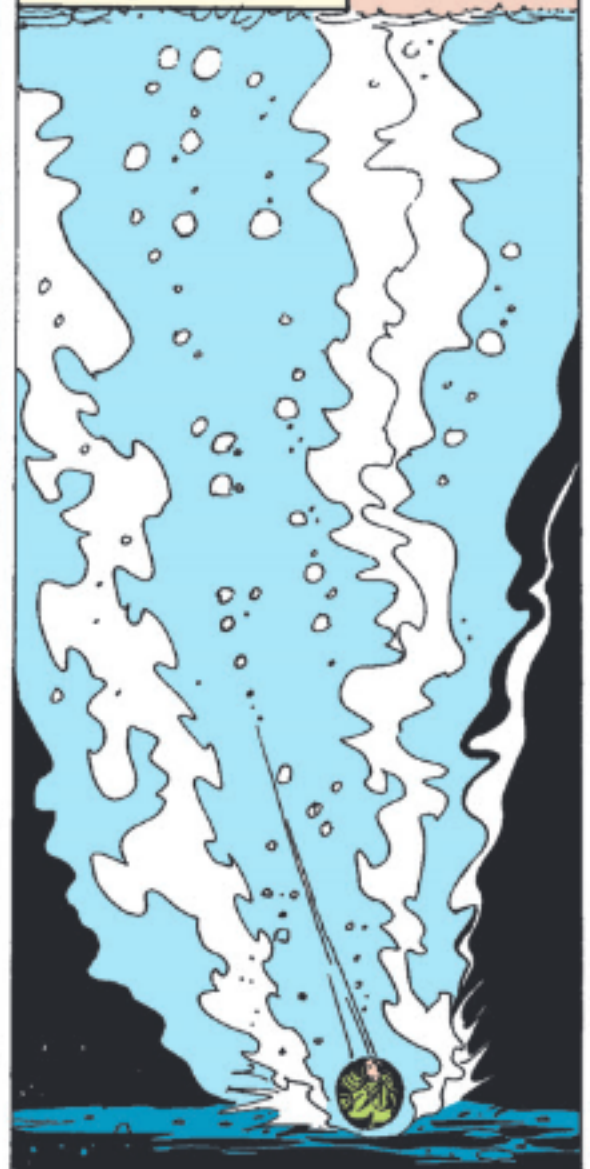


AFTER PRALAYA, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW KALPA, WHILE BRAHMA WAS BUSY IN THE WORK OF CREATION...

...BHOOMIDEVI\* BEING TOSSED ABOUT ON THE WAVES ...

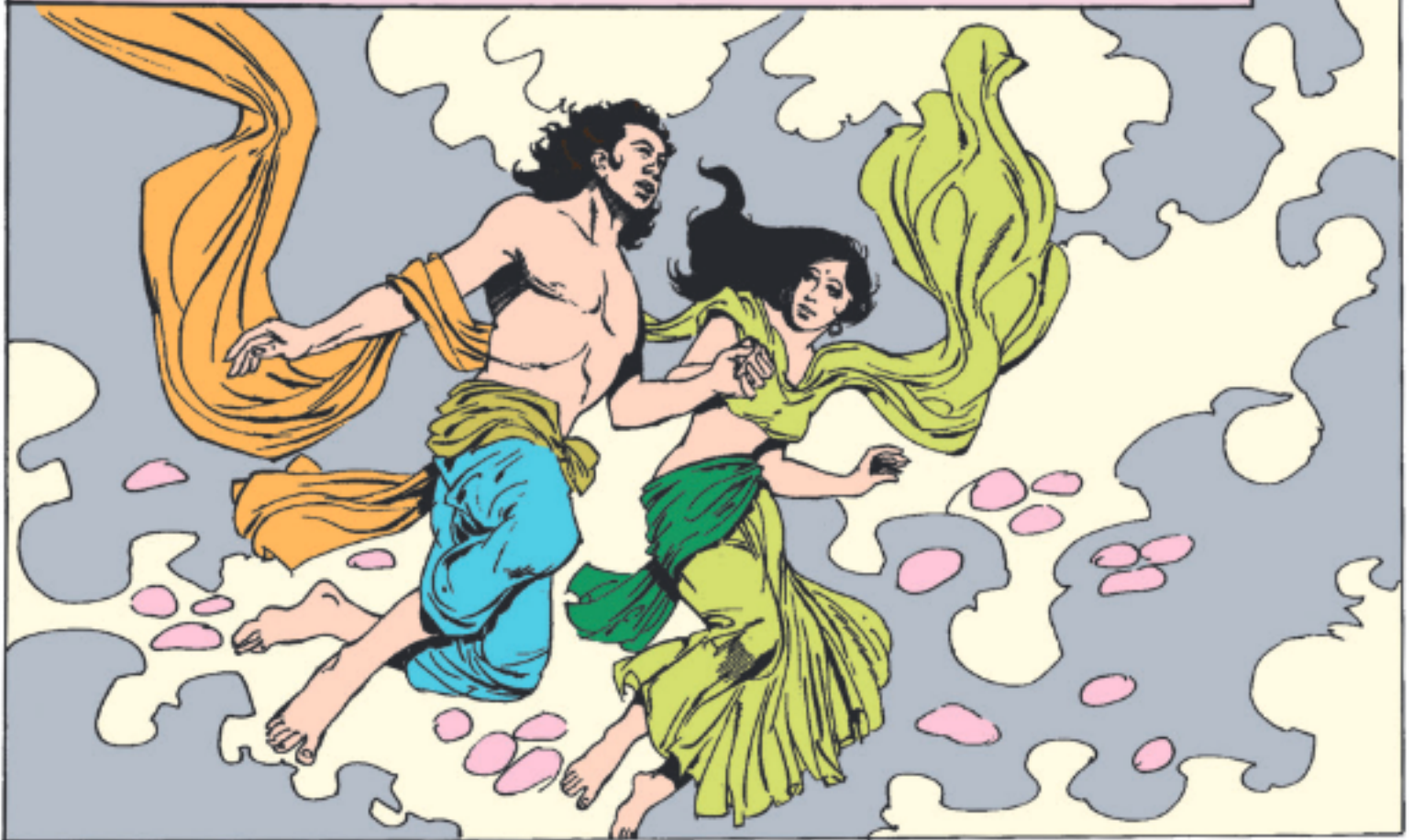


... SANK TO THE BED OF THE OCEAN...





...AND SWAYAMBHAVA MANU AND SHATARUPA CAME INTO BEING.



THEY BOWED TO BRAHMA.

FATHER, TELL US HOW WE MAY SERVE YOU AS WELL AS ENSURE OUR HAPPINESS IN THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT.



KEEP YOUR HEART FREE FROM JEALOUSY, BEGET MANY VIRTUOUS CHILDREN AND RULE OVER THE EARTH, FOR YOU SHALL BE THE RULER OF MEN.



I SHALL OBEY YOUR WISHES. BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHERE MY PROGENY AND I SHOULD LIVE. BHOOMIDEVI LIES SUBMERGED.



**BRAHMA WAS TROUBLED.**

WHAT SHALL I DO?  
I WILL HAVE TO BRING  
THE EARTH UP. O LORD  
VISHNU, PLEASE HELP  
ME.



AS BRAHMA MEDITATED ON THE  
LORD, A TINY BOAR, HARDLY  
AS BIG AS HIS THUMB, EMERGED  
FROM ONE OF HIS  
NOSTRILS.

WHAT IS THIS  
WEIRD CREATURE!  
AND COMING OUT  
OF MY NOSTRIL!



**EVEN AS BRAHMA GAZED AT IT  
AMAZED, IT GREW ...**



**... AND GREW ...**



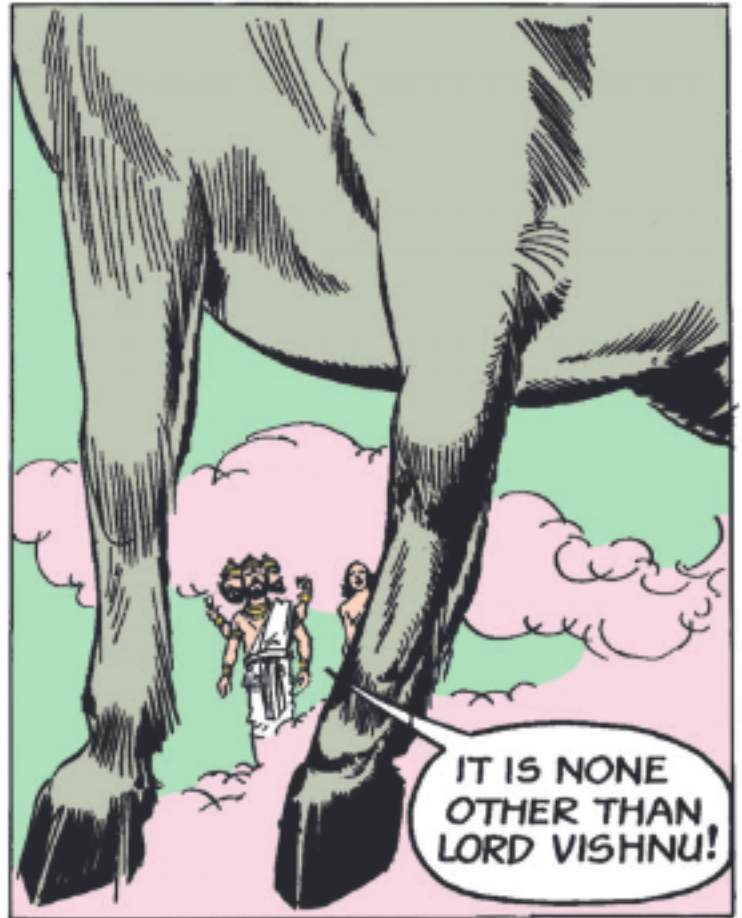
**... TILL IT WAS THE SIZE OF A LARGE ELEPHANT. BRAHMA WAS FULL  
OF WONDER.**



COULD IT  
BE LORD  
VISHNU  
HIMSELF?



WHILE BRAHMA PONDERED THUS, THE BOAR, WHICH WAS NOW AS LARGE AS A HUGE MOUNTAIN, ROARED.



THEN, EMITTING ANOTHER TERRIFYING ROAR, IT TOOK ONE MIGHTY LEAP INTO THE AIR ...



...TORE THE CLOUDS WITH ITS HOOFS...



...DIVED INTO THE OCEAN...

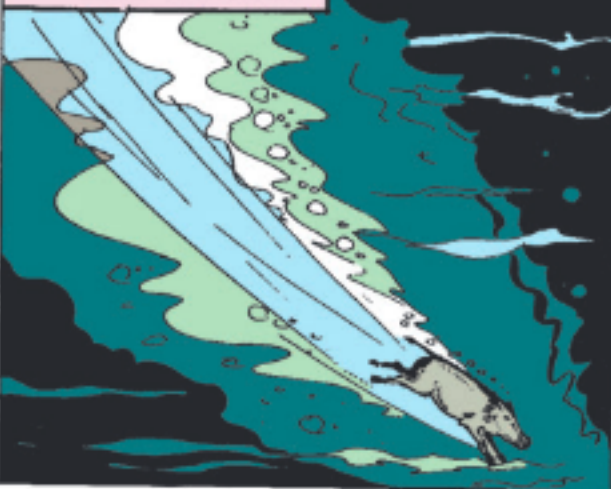




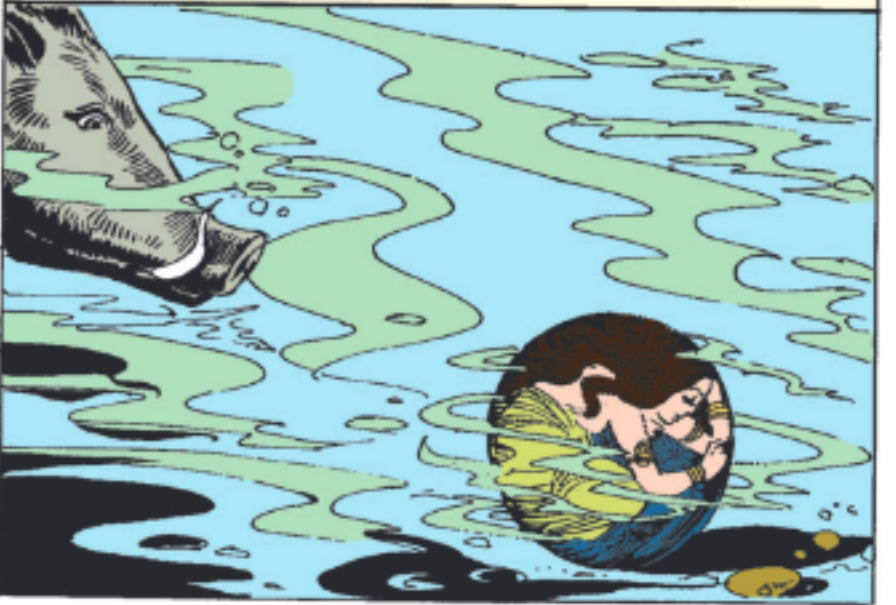
...AND NOSED ITS WAY ABOUT THE OCEAN-BED, IN SEARCH OF THE EARTH...



...TILL IT REACHED THE OTHER END OF THAT FATHOMLESS OCEAN AND DISCOVERED IN ITS DEPTHS...

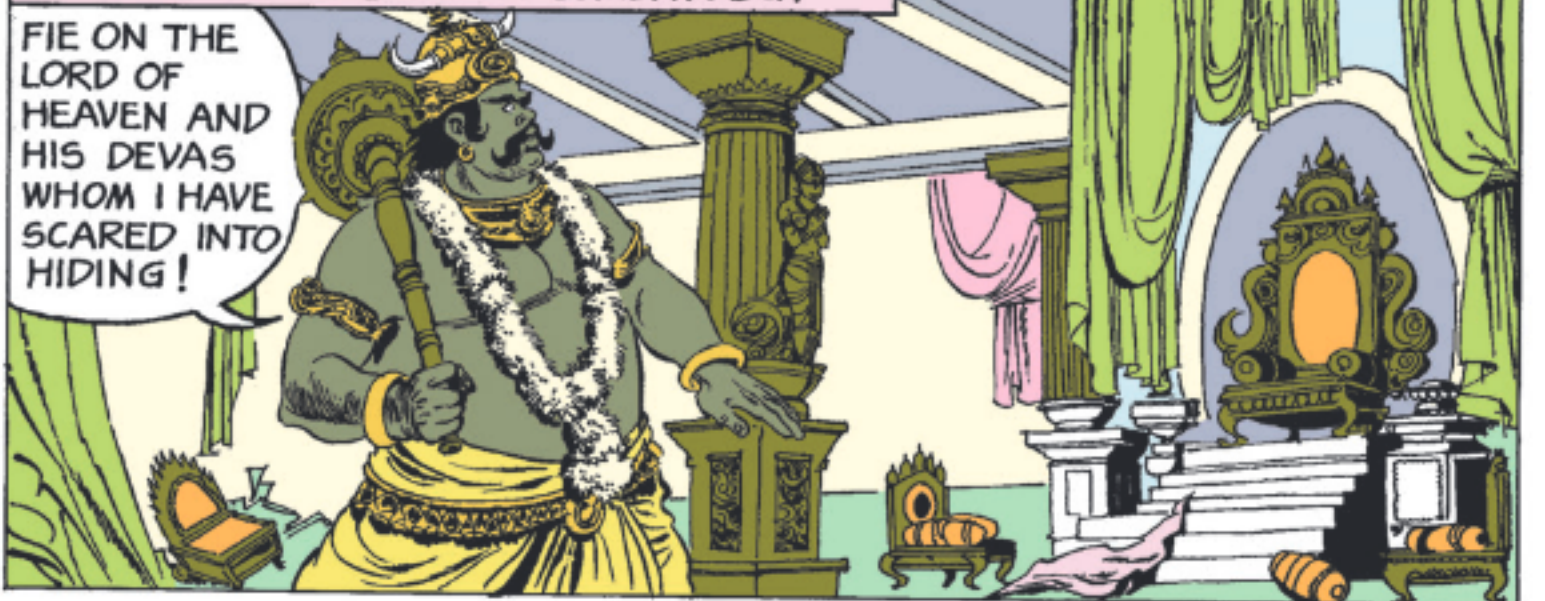


...THE OBJECT OF ITS QUEST—BHOOMIDEVI.



MEANWHILE, THE MIGHTY ASURA, HIRANYAKSHA, THUNDERED UP TO HEAVEN, SPOILING FOR A COMBAT. BUT —

FIE ON THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND HIS DEVAS WHOM I HAVE SCARED INTO HIDING!





DISGUSTED AND ANGRY, HE MARCHED UP TO VARUNA, LORD OF THE WATERS AND FEIGNING HUMILITY, FELL AT HIS FEET.

O SUPREME LORD!  
O GUARDIAN OF A  
WHOLE SPHERE\*!  
O RULER OF GREAT  
FAME! GIVE ME  
BATTLE.

HE MOCKS  
ME KNOWING  
FULLY WELL  
THAT HE IS  
THE MIGHTIER  
OF THE TWO.

BUT VARUNA CURBED  
HIS ANGER.

I HAVE GIVEN UP  
FIGHTING. I AM TOO  
OLD NOW. LORD  
VISHNU IS THE ONE  
YOU SHOULD APPROACH.  
HE ALONE WOULD BE  
AN EQUAL OPPONENT  
FOR YOU. GO SEEK  
HIM OUT.

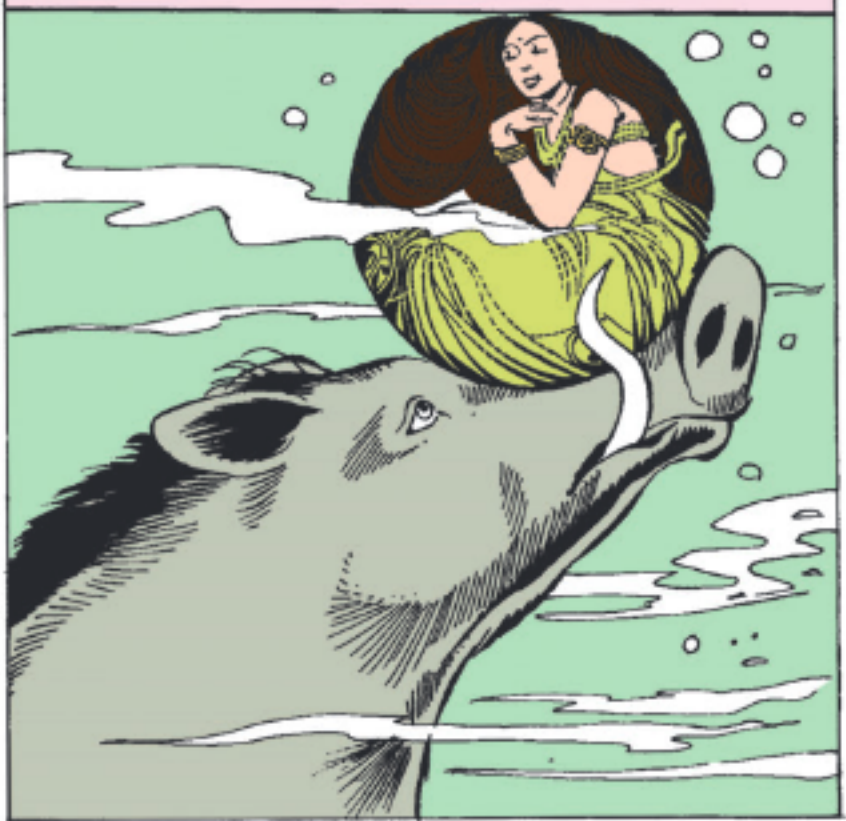
LEARNING FROM THE SAGE NARADA WHERE VISHNU  
WAS, HIRANYAKSHA CHARGED TOWARDS THE  
OCEAN-BED.



MEANWHILE THE BOAR HAD JUST DUG HIS TUSK INTO THE OCEAN-BED ...

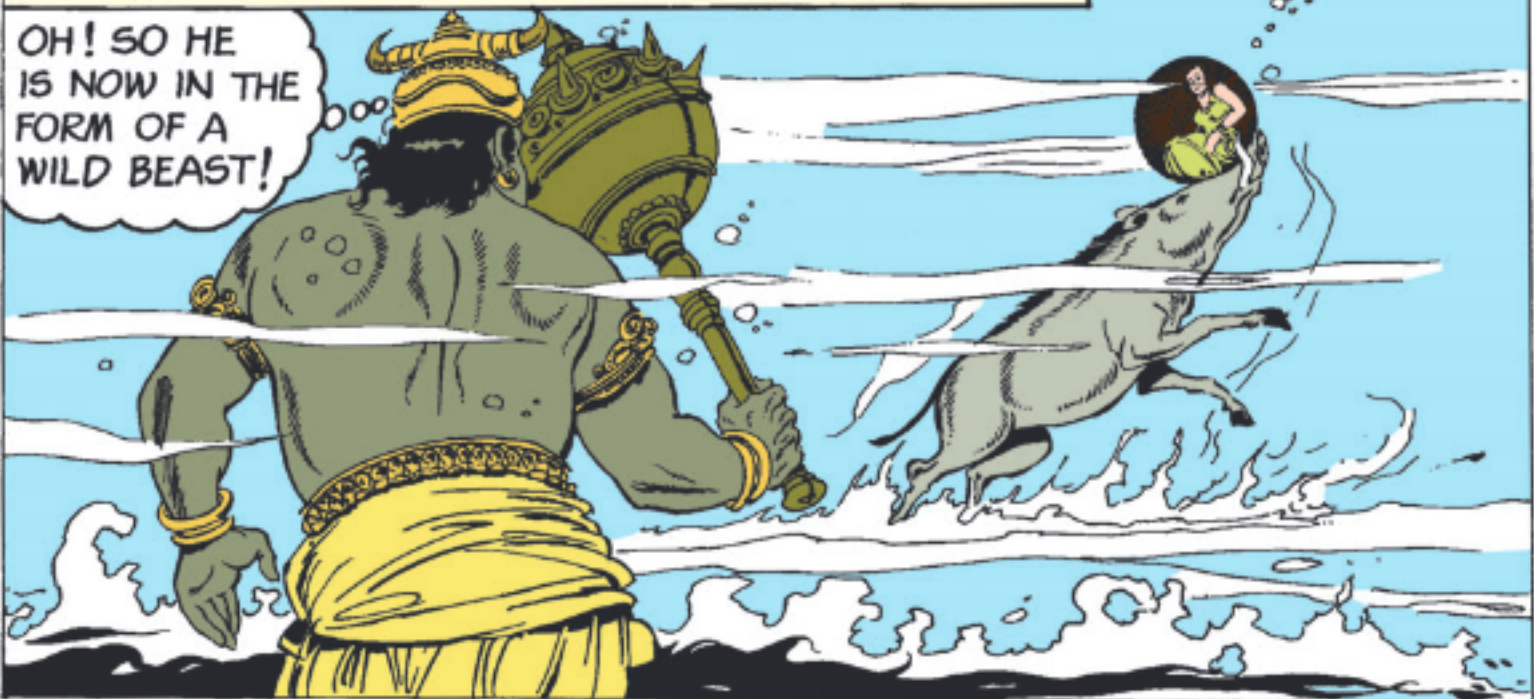


...AND LIFTING BHOOMIDEVI ONTO IT...



... BEGUN RISING TOWARDS THE SURFACE, WHEN —

OH! SO HE IS NOW IN THE FORM OF A WILD BEAST!



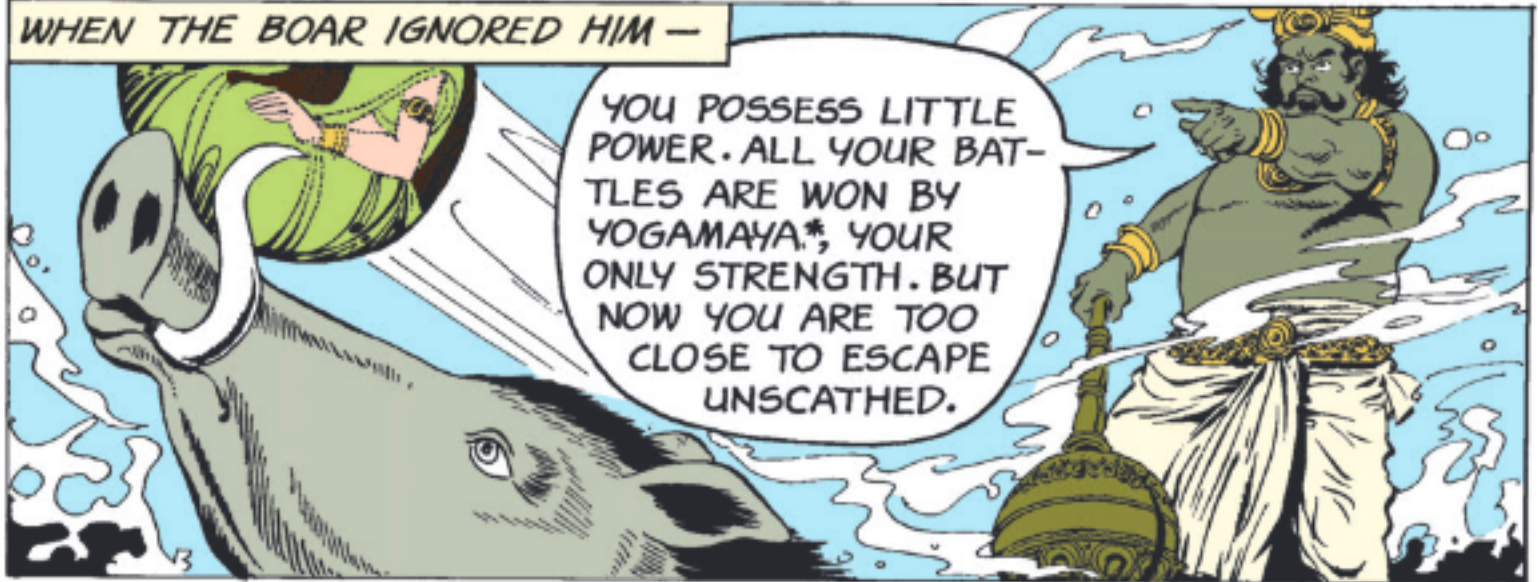
HIRANYAKSHA CHALLENGED THE BEAST WITH A ROAR.

COME ON, YOU BEAST! LEAVE BHOOMIDEVI ALONE. SHE HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED TO US BY THE MAKER OF THE UNIVERSE.





WHEN THE BOAR IGNORED HIM —



YOU POSSESS LITTLE POWER. ALL YOUR BATTLES ARE WON BY YOGAMAYA\*, YOUR ONLY STRENGTH. BUT NOW YOU ARE TOO CLOSE TO ESCAPE UNSCATHED.

THE BOAR CONTINUED RISING AND HIRANYAKSHA GAVE CHASE.

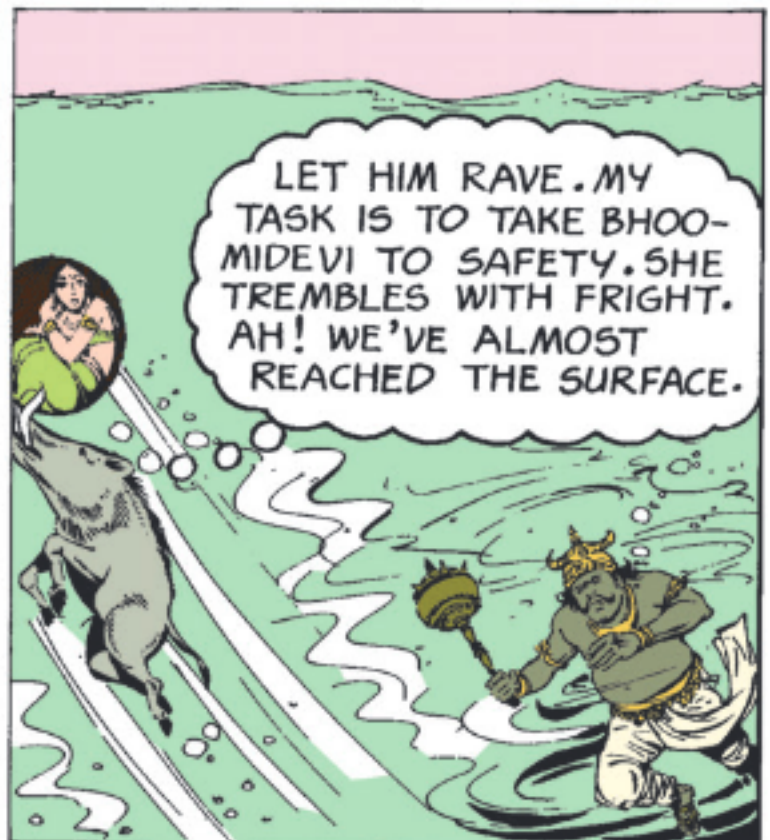


WAIT! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF? RUNNING AWAY FROM A FOE WHO CHALLENGES YOU!

BUT THE BOAR DID NOT EVEN LOOK BACK.



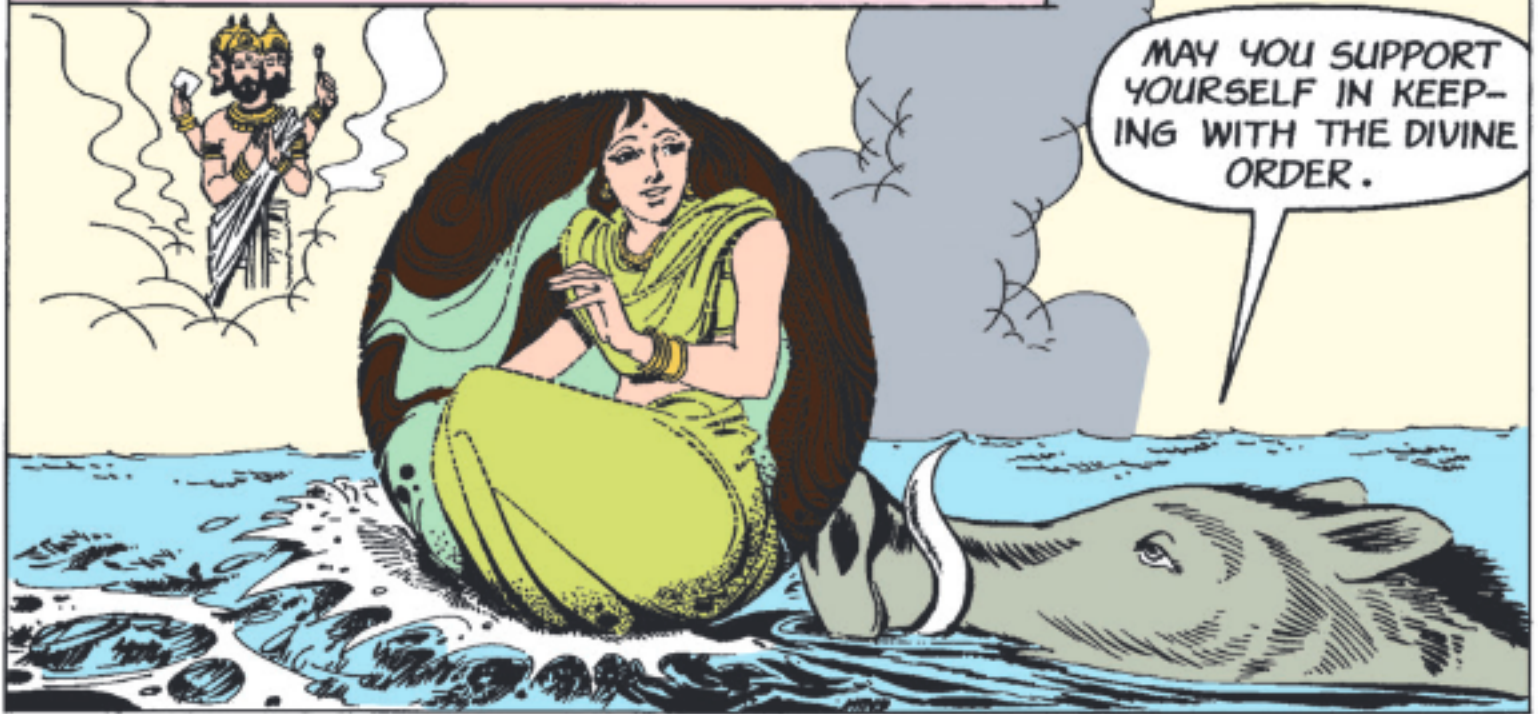
SHAMELESS WRETCH. THE SHARPEST INSULT FAILS TO PIERCE YOUR THICK HIDE.



LET HIM RAVE. MY TASK IS TO TAKE BHOO-MIDEVI TO SAFETY. SHE TREMBLES WITH FRIGHT. AH! WE'VE ALMOST REACHED THE SURFACE.



AS SOON AS HE REACHED THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN, HE PLACED BHOOMIDEVI GENTLY ON IT AND BLESSED HER.



THEN HE TURNED TO FACE HIRANYAKSHA, HIS SPEECH HEAVY WITH SARCASM.

O WRETCH, SCARED AWAY BY YOUR MACE, WE WHO HAVE STOLEN THE EARTH MUST TAKE OUR STAND IN THE BATTLEFIELD. FOR, HAVING INCURRED THE WRATH OF A POWERFUL ENEMY, WHERE CAN WE GO?



HIRANYAKSHA BECAME FURIOUS. SEETHING WITH ANGER, HE LIFTED HIS MACE AND ...

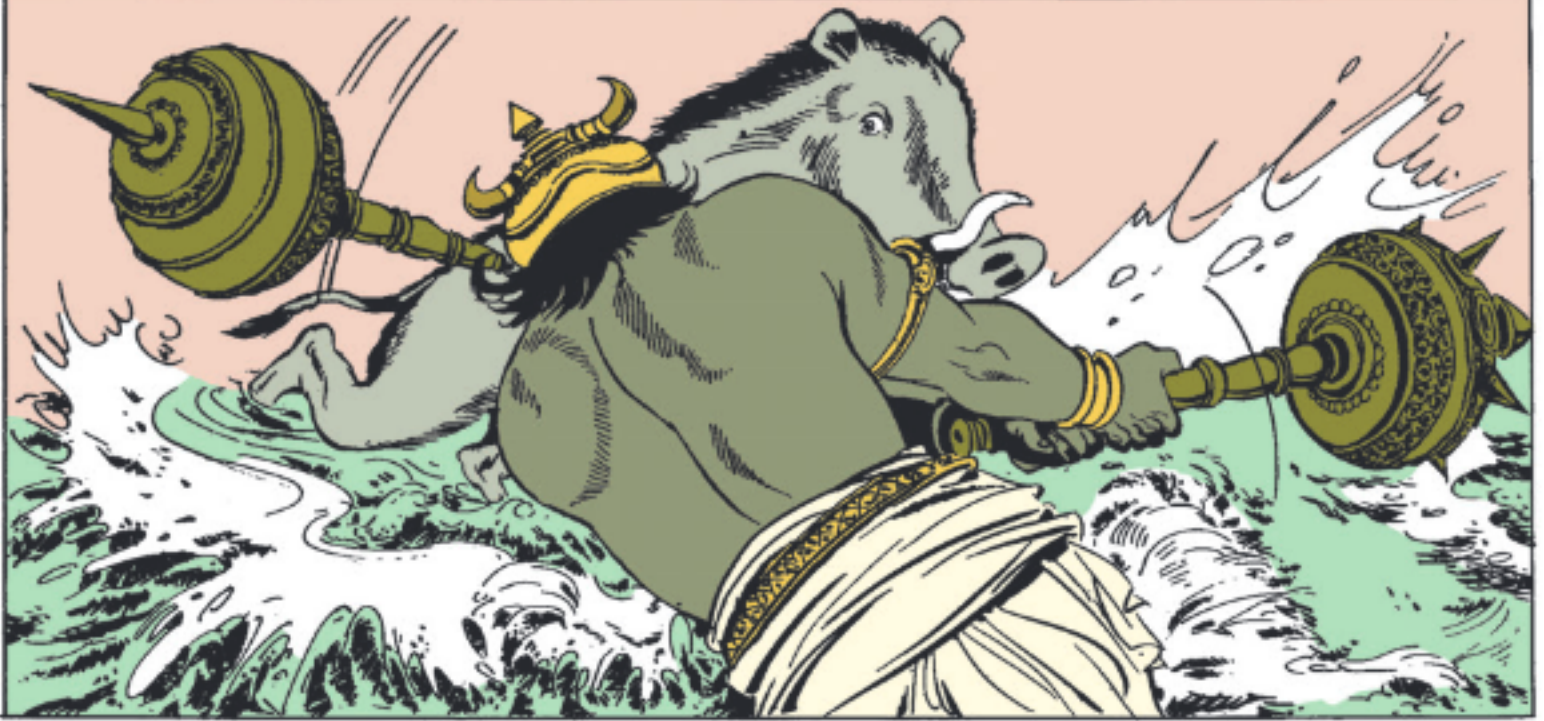


...SPRANG TOWARDS THE ANIMAL. BUT THE BOAR STEPPED ASIDE AND RAISED HIS OWN.

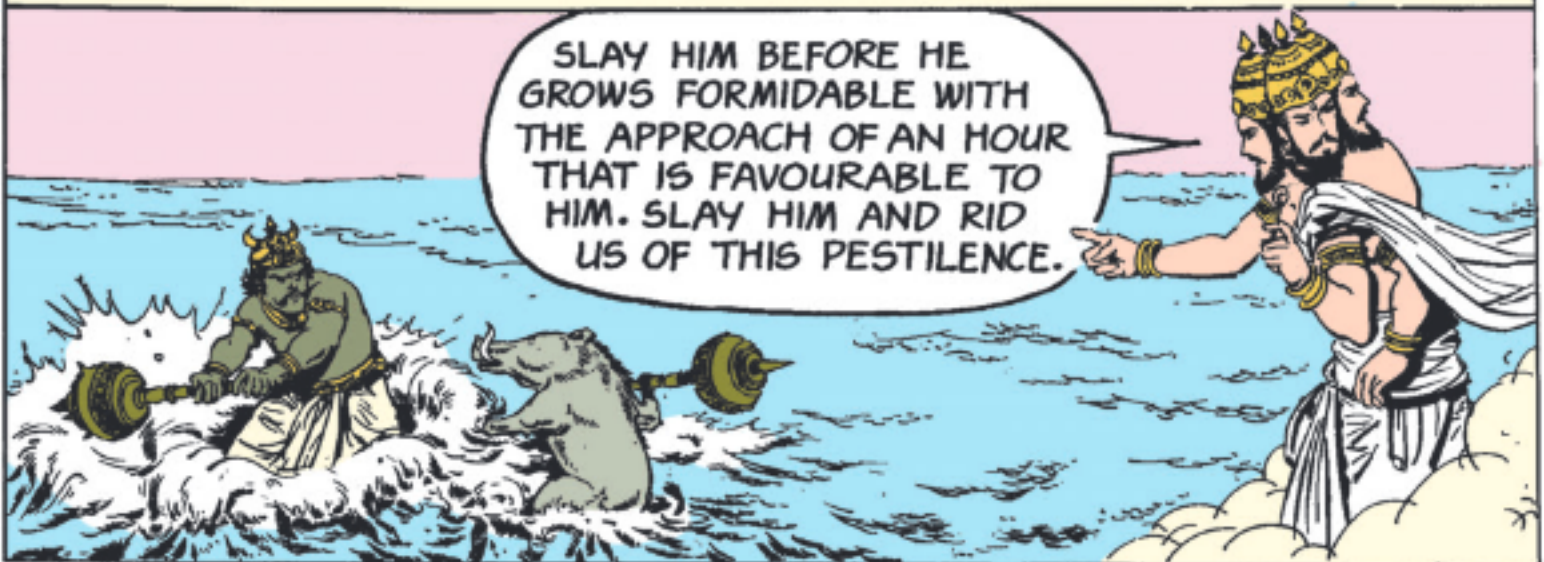




THEY FOUGHT FOR A LONG WHILE, EACH STRIKING OUT WITH HIS MACE.



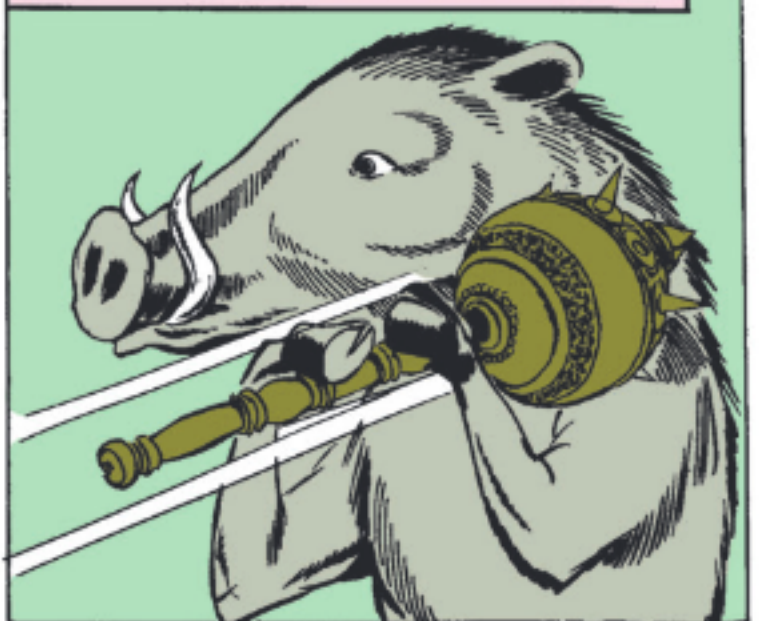
AS THE HOUR OF TWILIGHT DREW NEAR, BRAHMA SPOKE TO THE BOAR.



HEARING BRAHMA'S WORDS, HIRANYAKSHA HURLED HIS MACE AT THE ANIMAL.

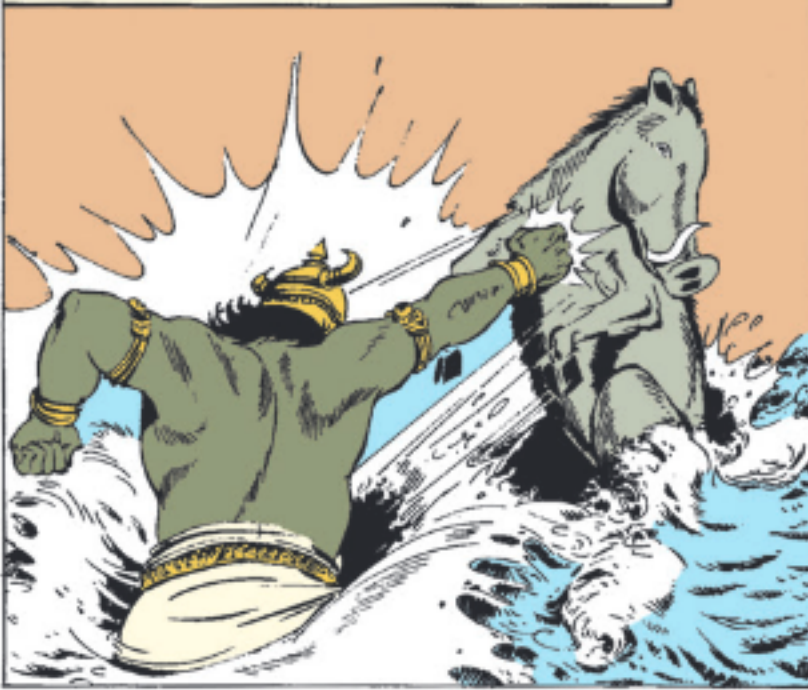


THE MACE WAS CAUGHT BY THE BOAR AS IF IT WERE A TOY.





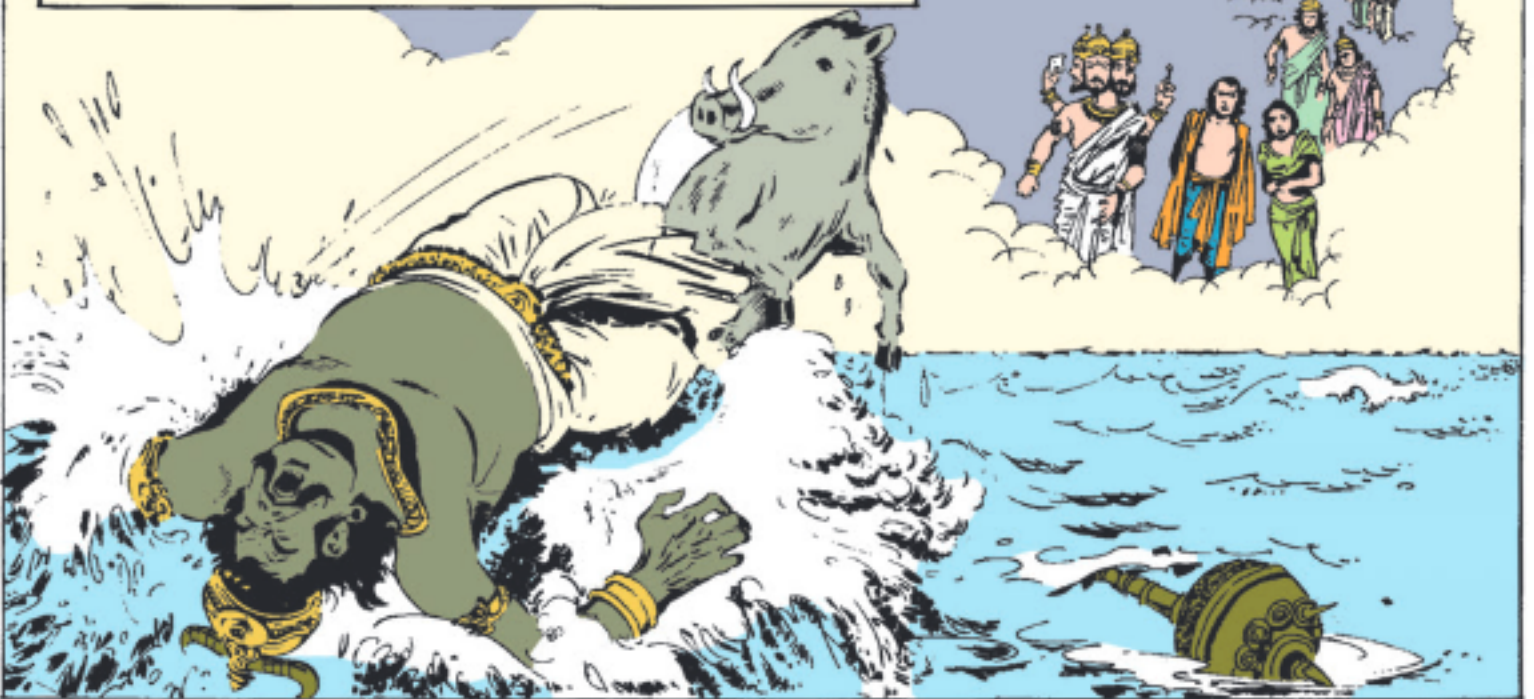
ENRAGED, HIRANYAKSHA BEGAN HITTING OUT WITH HIS FISTS ON THE CHEST OF THE BOAR.



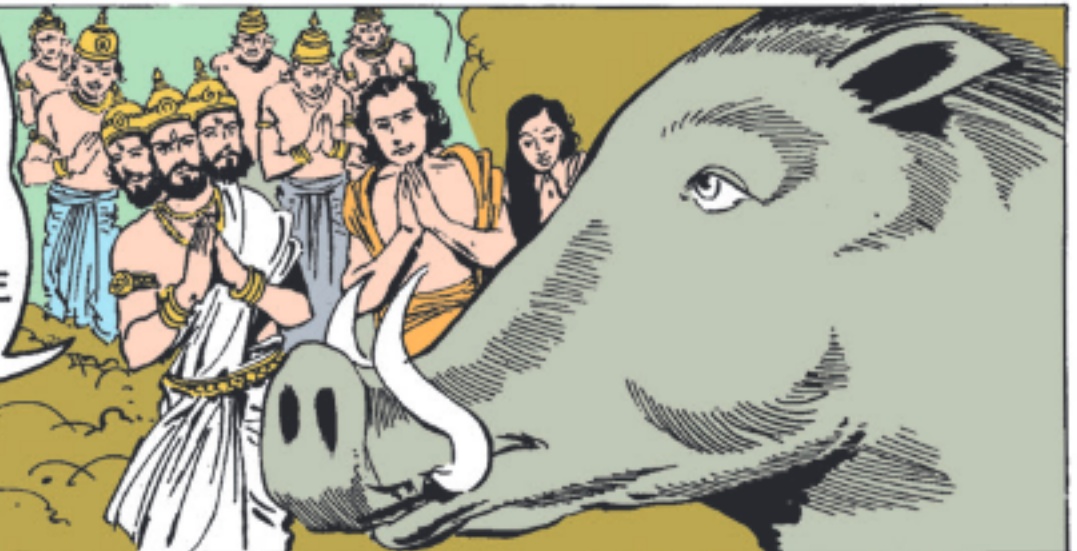
THE BOAR PLAYFULLY HIT THE DEMON BEHIND HIS EARS.



HIRANYAKSHA REELED AND FELL DEAD.



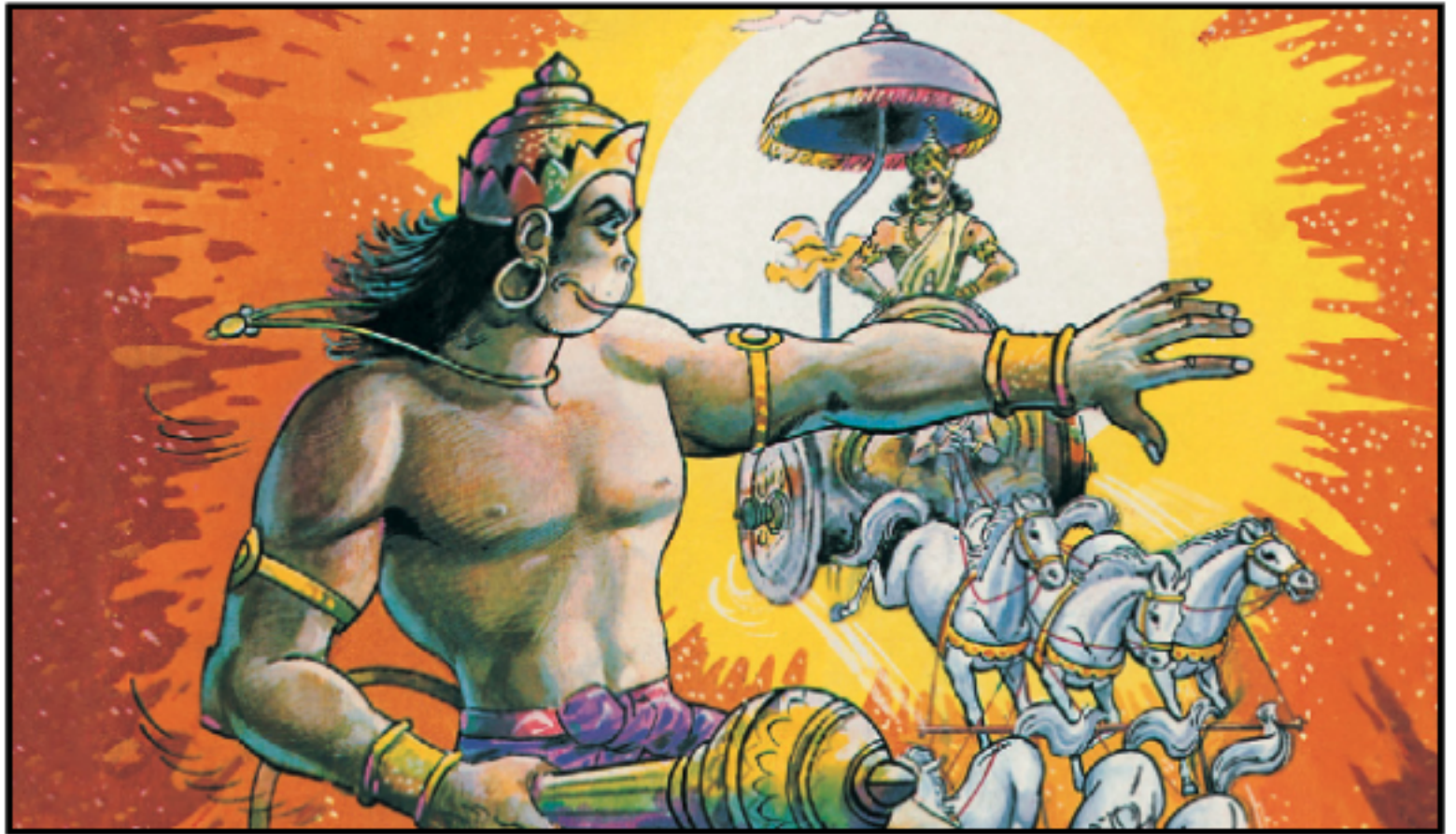
O LORD, ONLY YOU IN YOUR IMMACULATE GOODNESS COULD HAVE LIFTED BHOO-MIDEVI TO THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN. ONLY YOUR INVINCIBLE SELF COULD HAVE SAVED US FROM THIS SCOURGE.





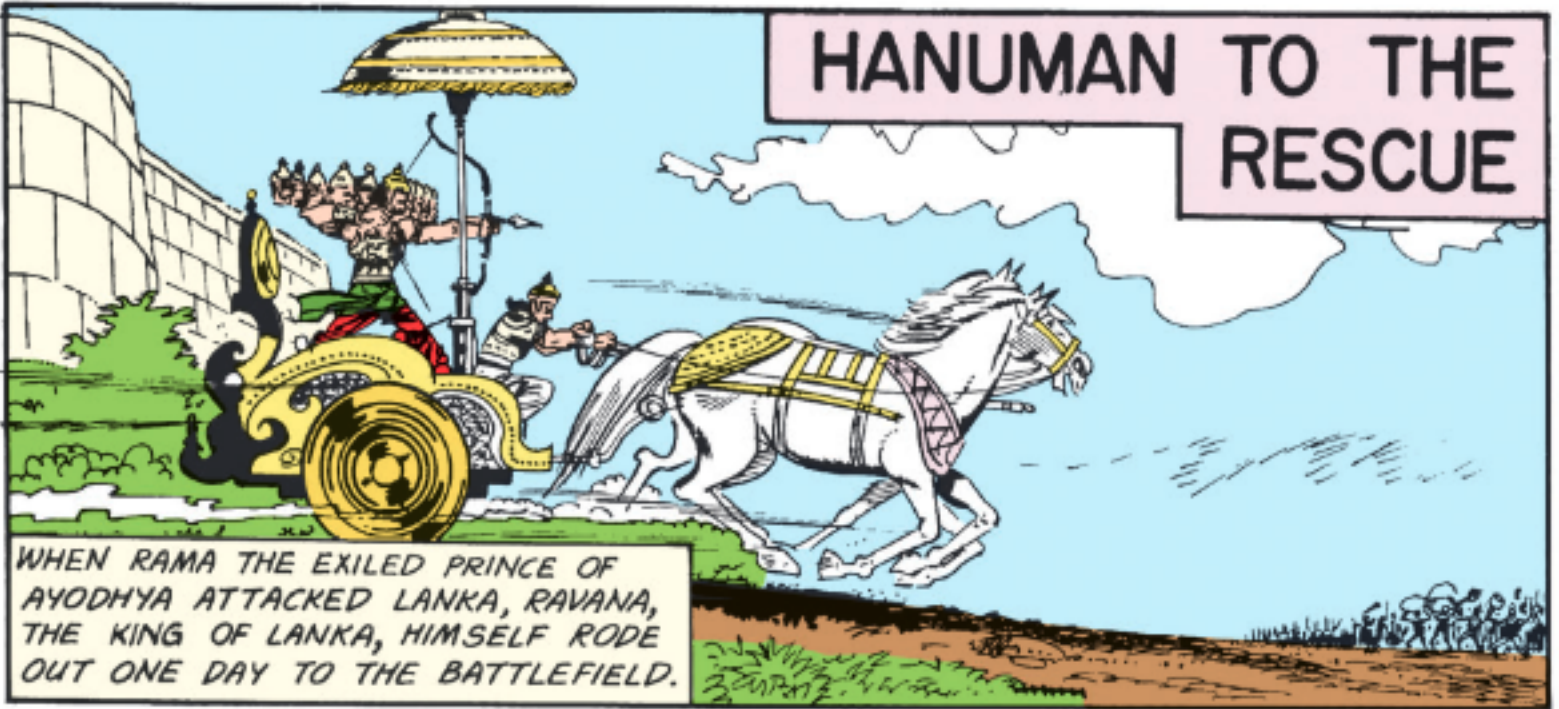
# HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE

HANUMAN BRINGS THE SANJEEVANI





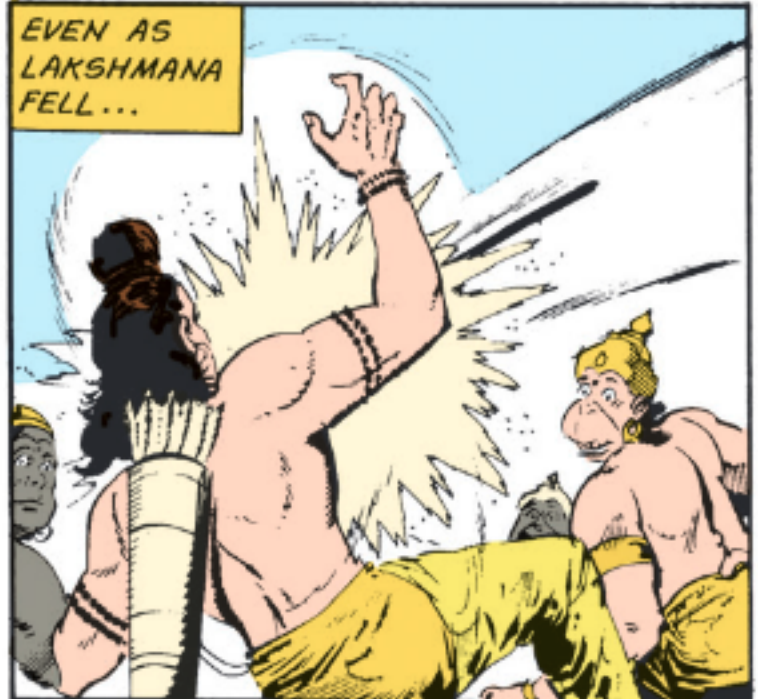
# HANUMAN TO THE RESCUE



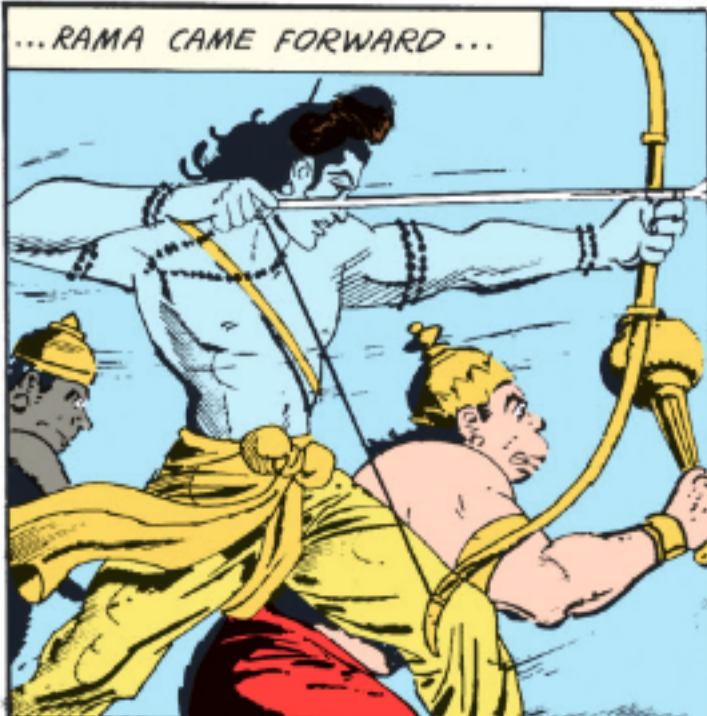
IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY'S BATTLE, HE HURLED HIS SPEAR AT RAMA'S BROTHER, LAKSHMANA.



EVEN AS LAKSHMANA FELL...



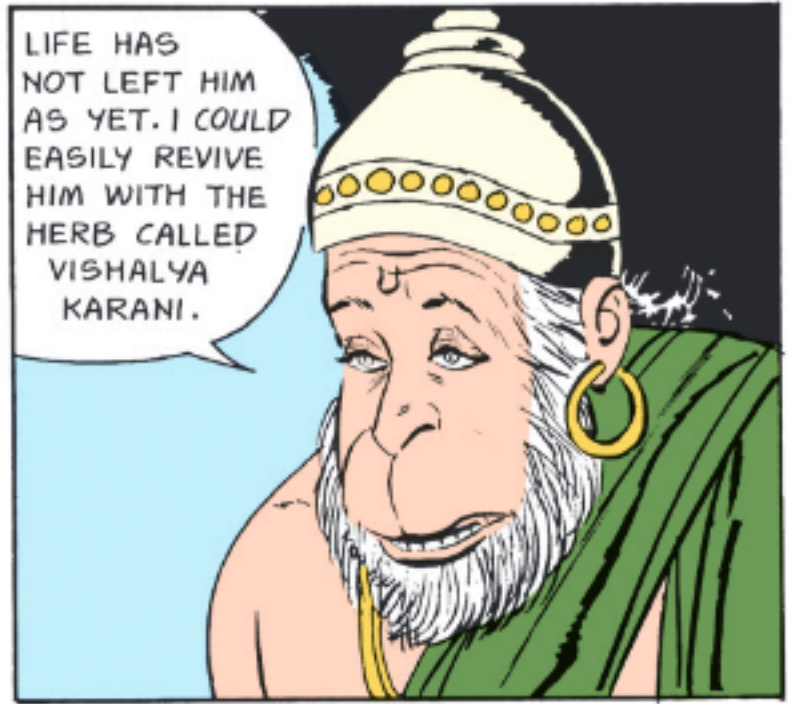
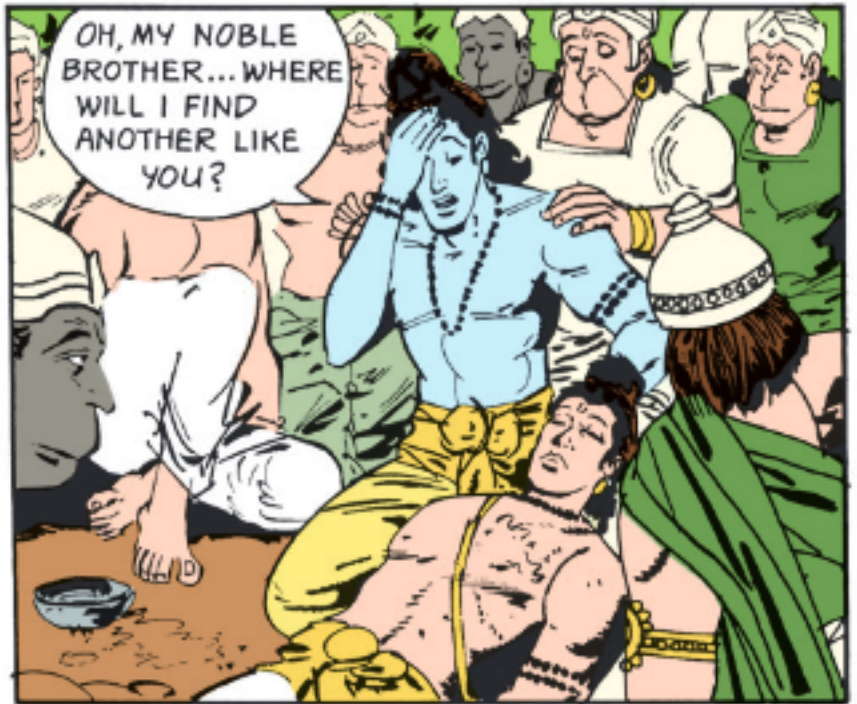
...RAMA CAME FORWARD...



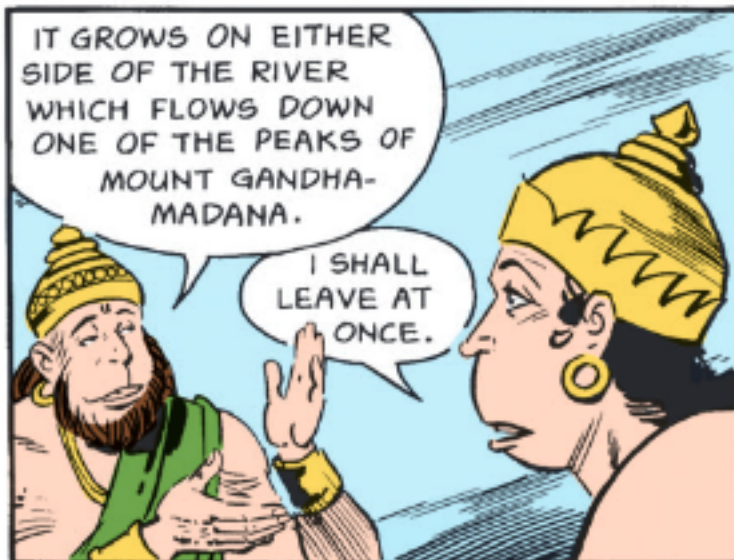
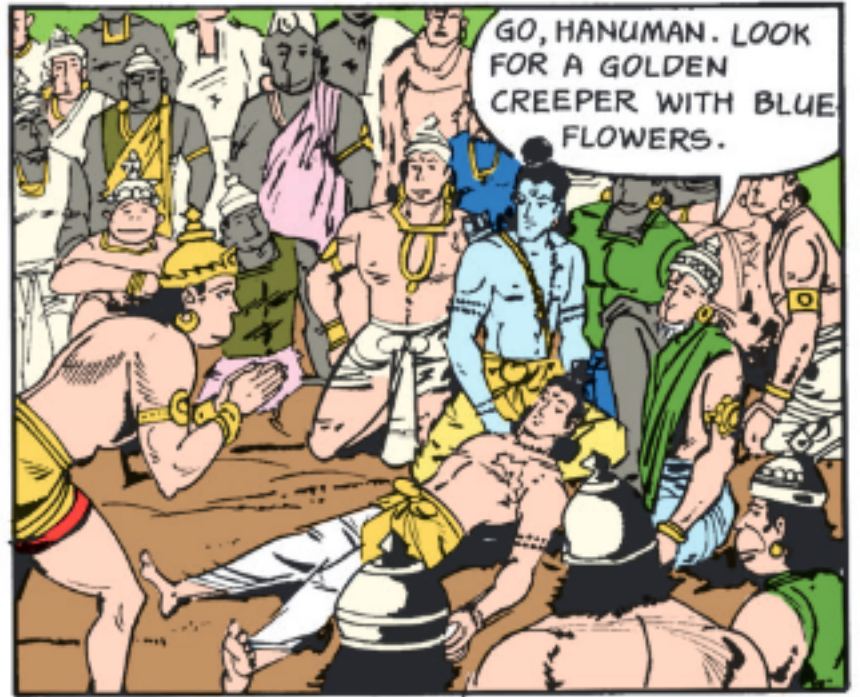
...AND DROVE AWAY THE MIGHTY RAKSHASA.





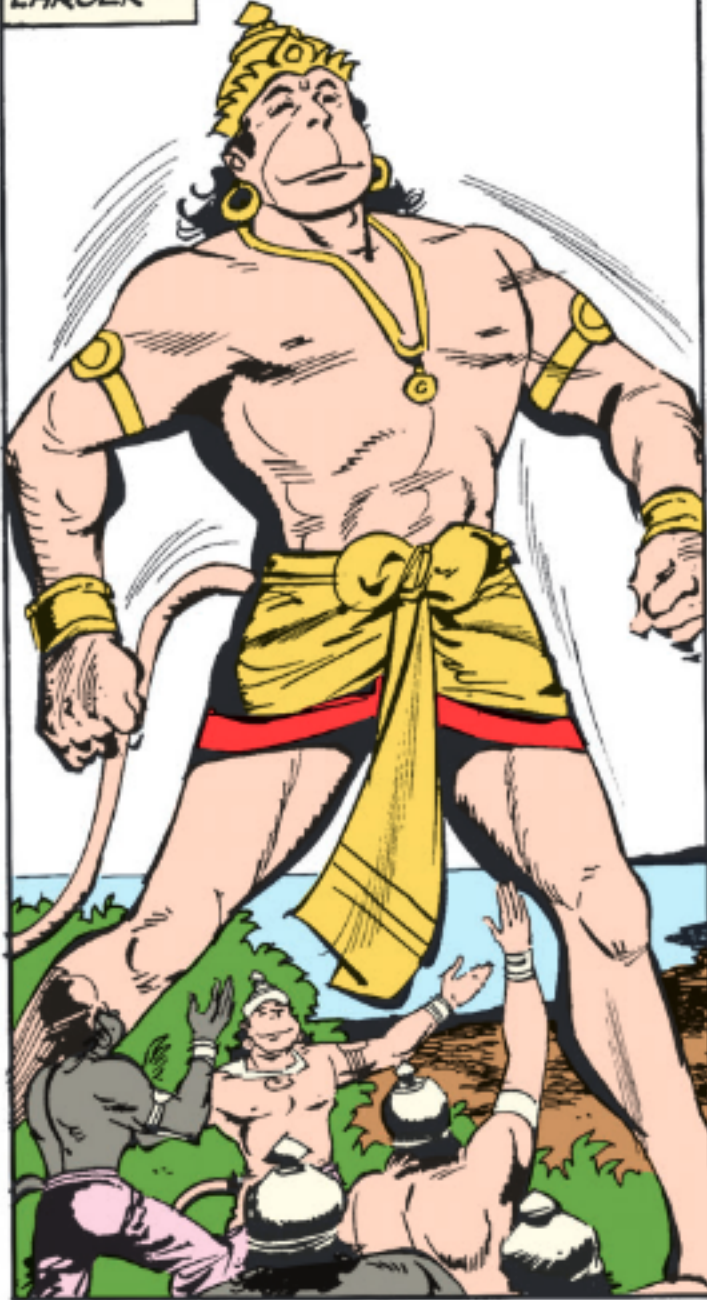




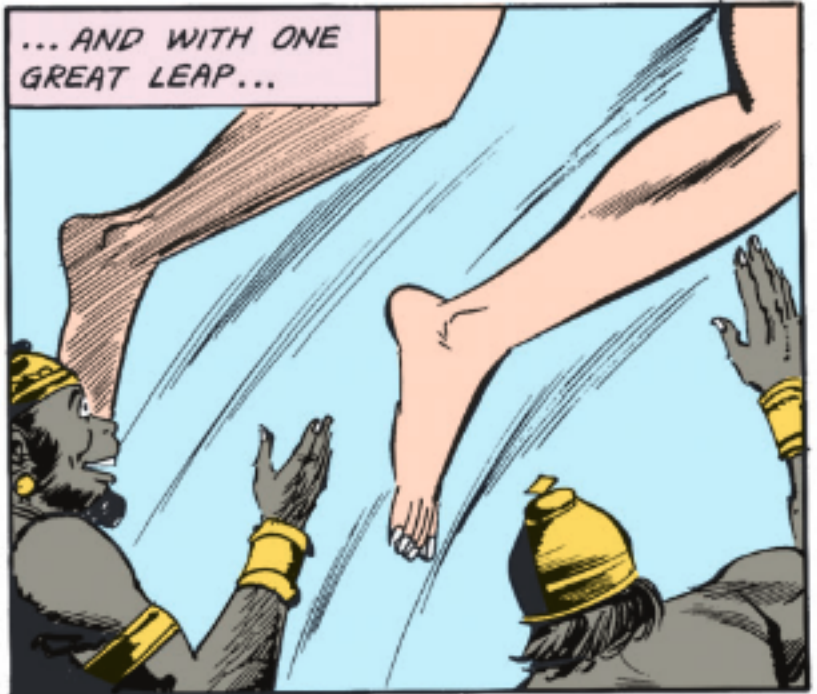




THEN HANUMAN, THE SON OF THE WIND, MADE HIMSELF LARGER AND LARGER...



... AND WITH ONE GREAT LEAP...



... ROSE HIGH UP INTO THE SKY.



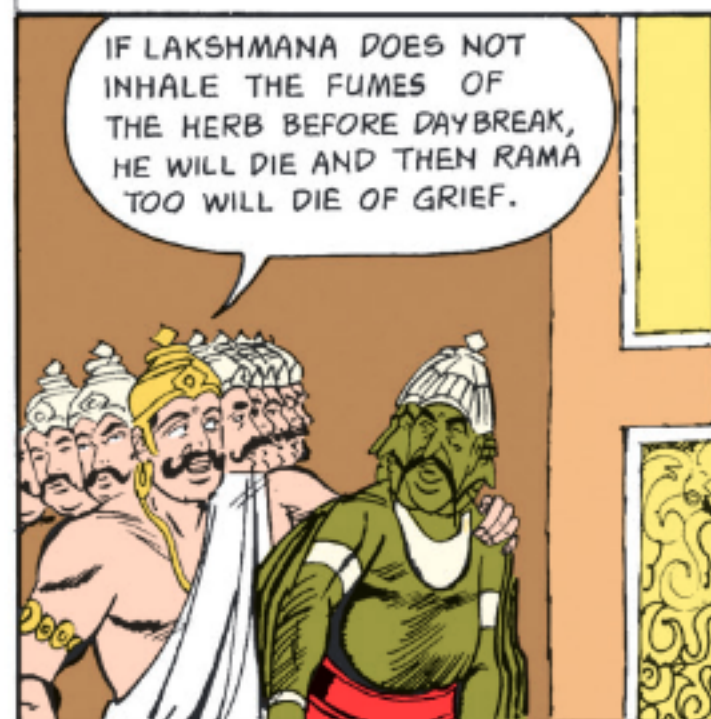
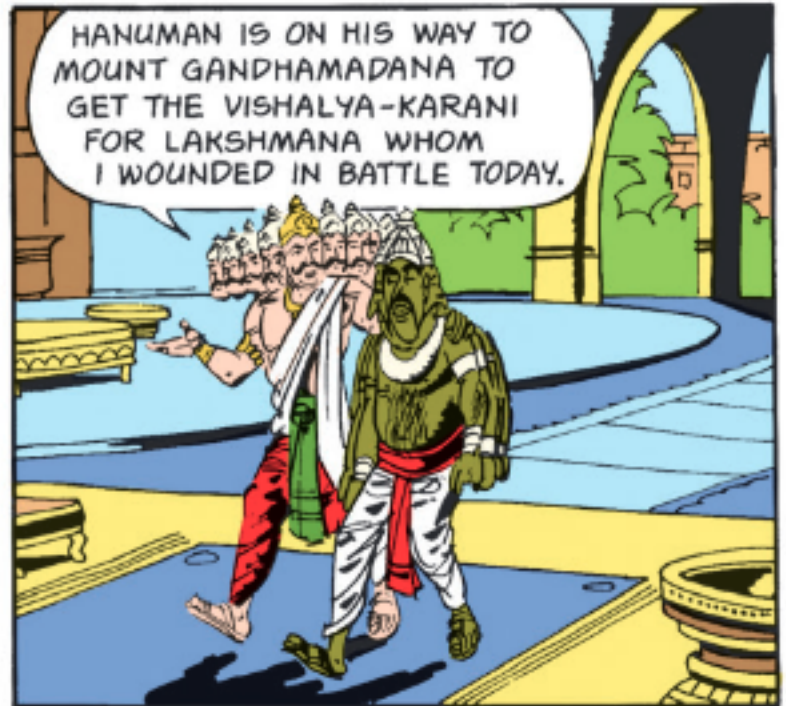
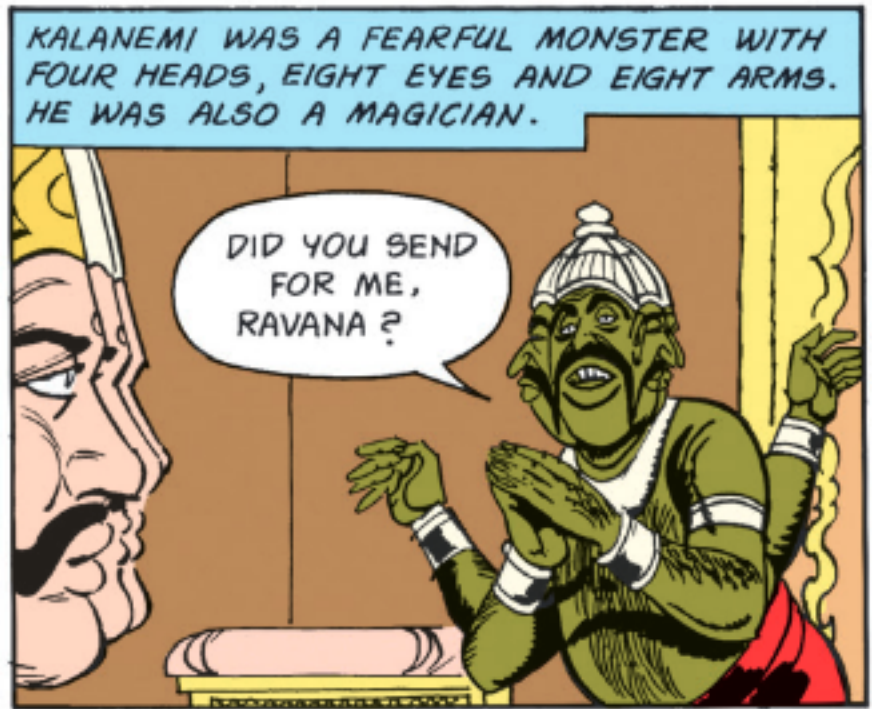
AS HE FLEW ALONG, SUPPORTED BY THE WIND, RAVANA SAW HIM FROM LANKA.



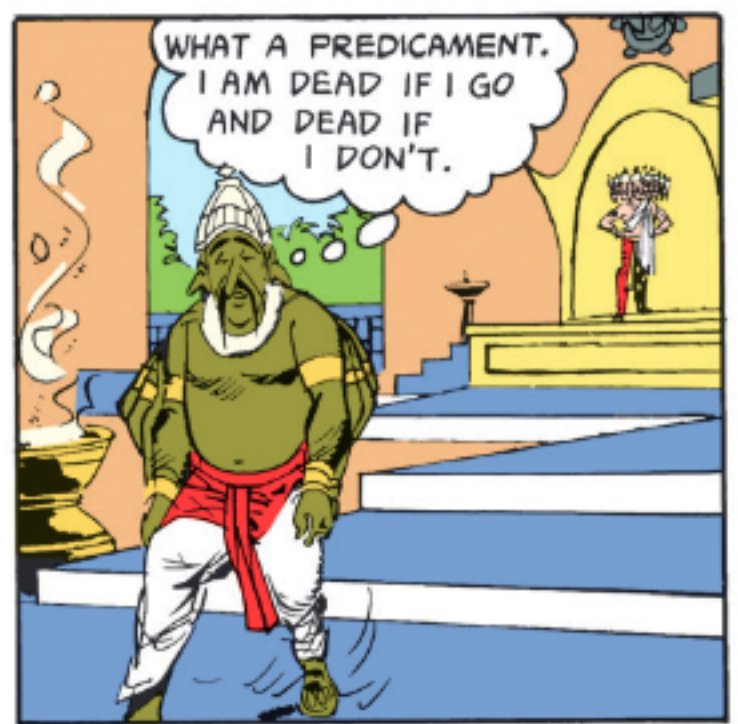
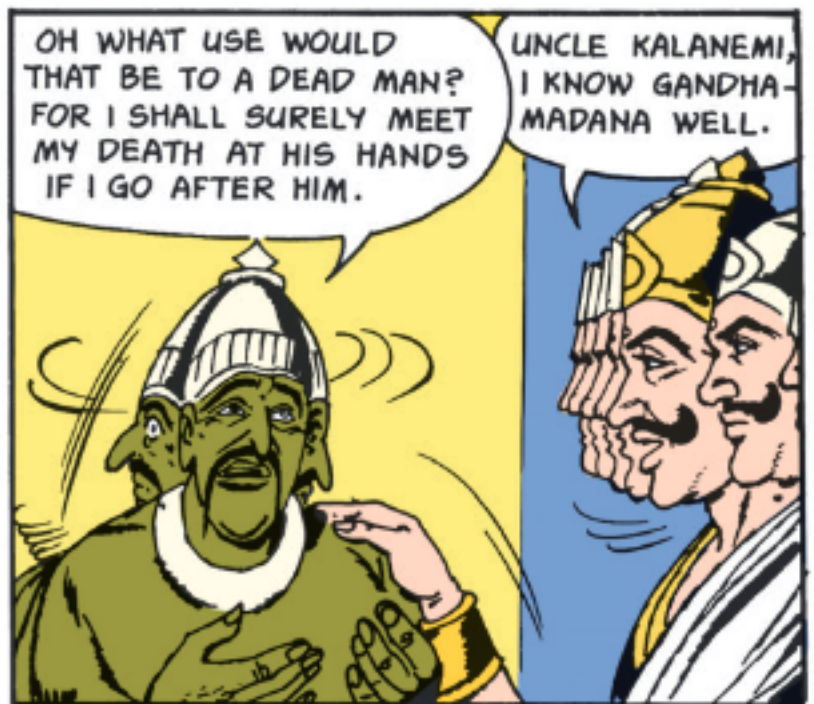
WHERE DOES HANUMAN GO AT THIS HOUR? AH! THE VISHALYA KARANI! THE ONLY HERB THAT CAN SAVE LAKSHMANA!









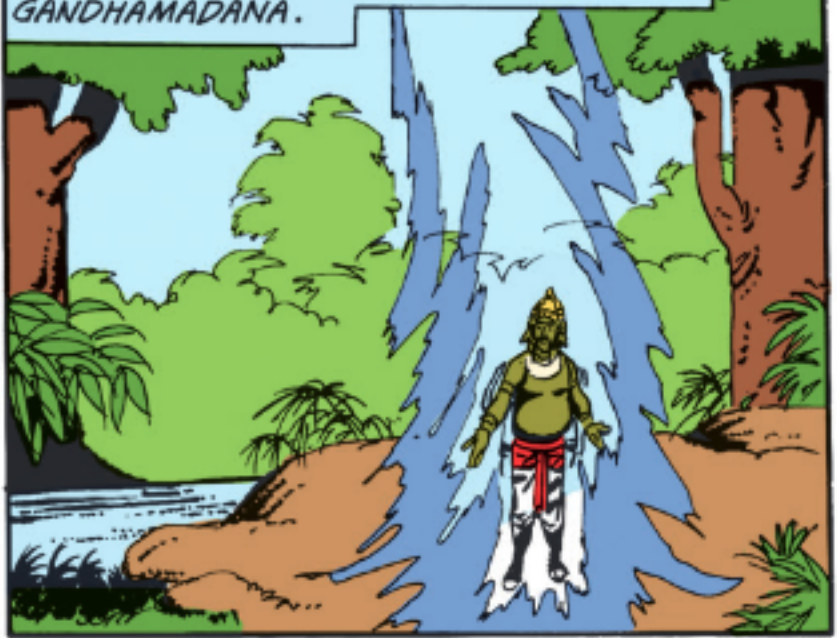




KALANEMI USED HIS MAGIC ...



...TO TRANSPORT HIMSELF TO MOUNT GANDHAMADANA.



THERE HE TRANSFORMED HIMSELF INTO A HERMIT ...



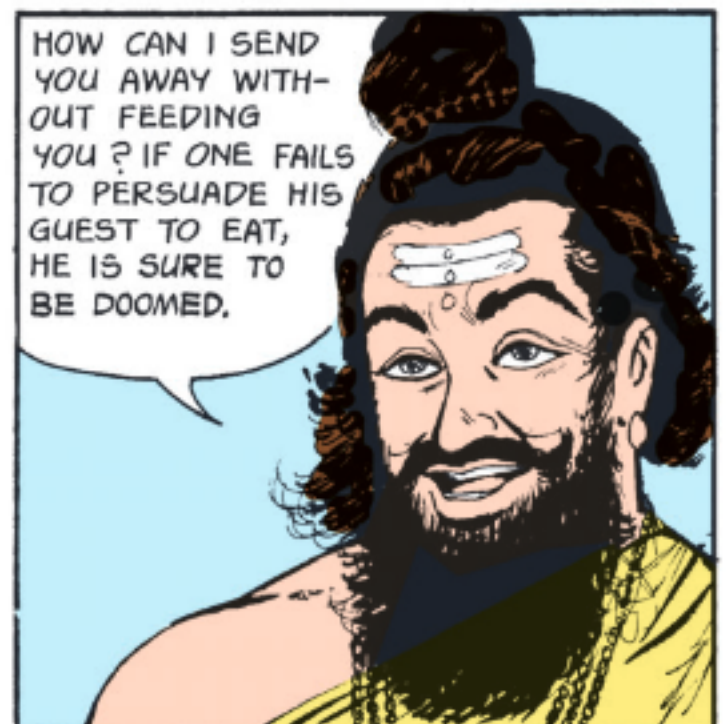
...CREATED A BEAUTIFUL HERMITAGE OUT OF THIN AIR ...



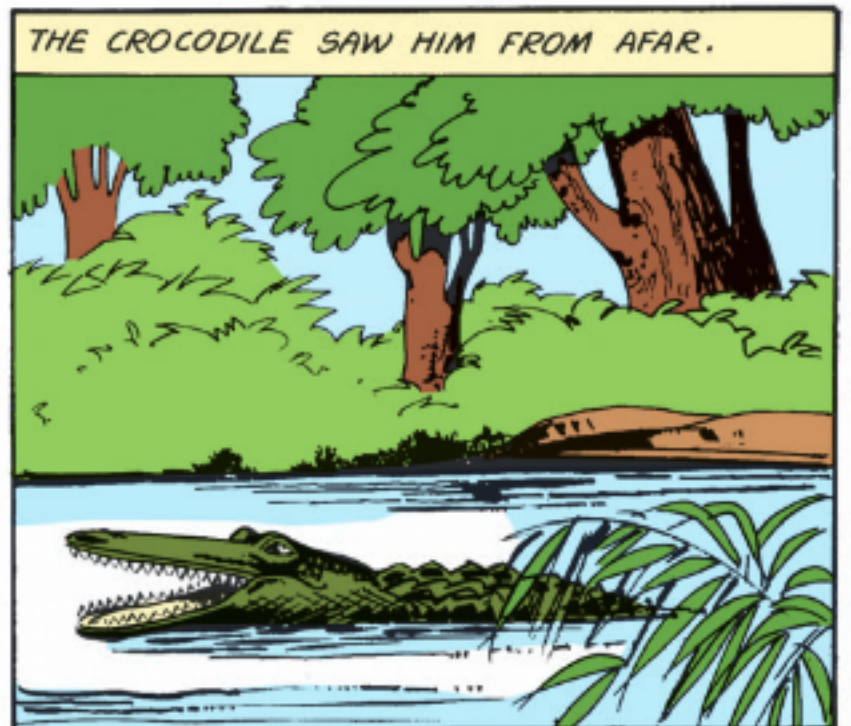
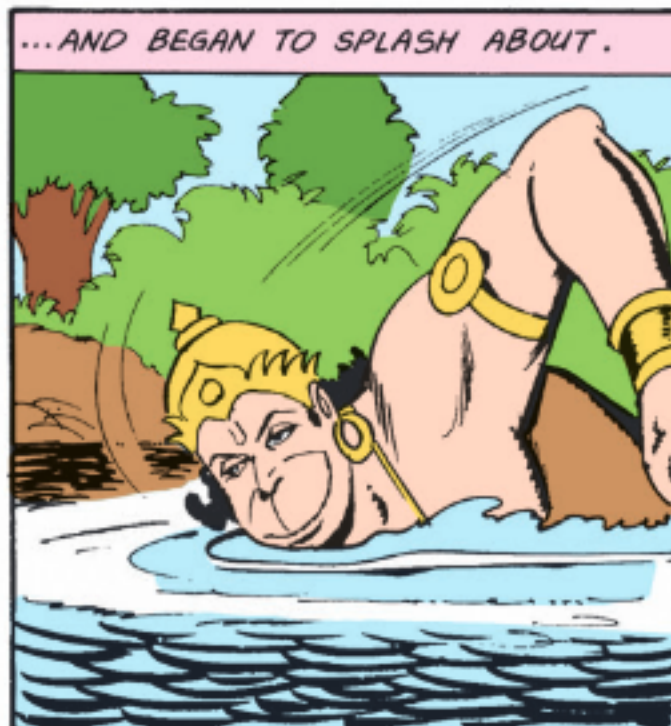
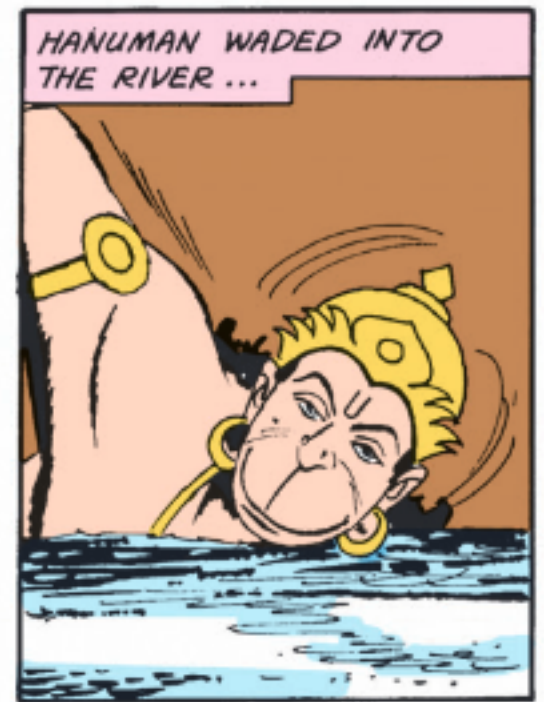
...AND SAT DOWN OUTSIDE IT.





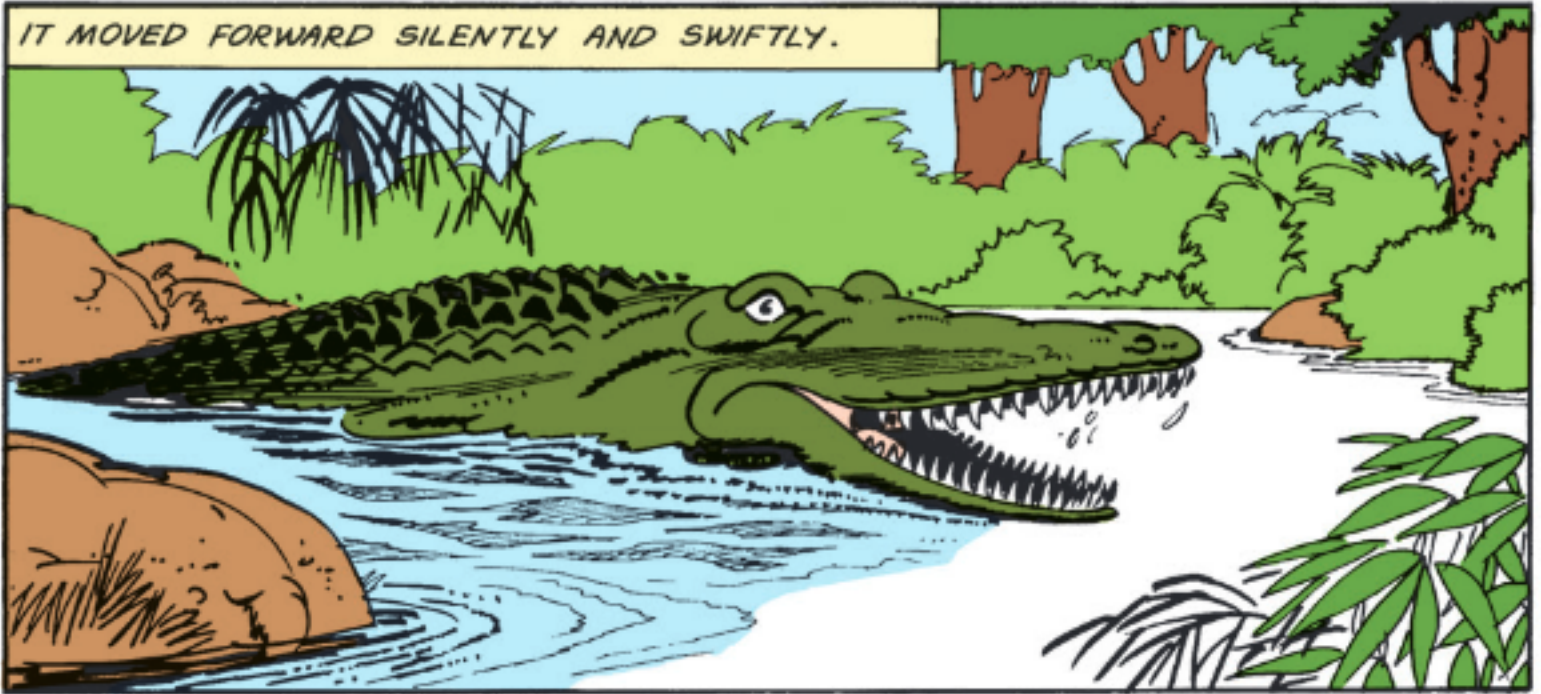




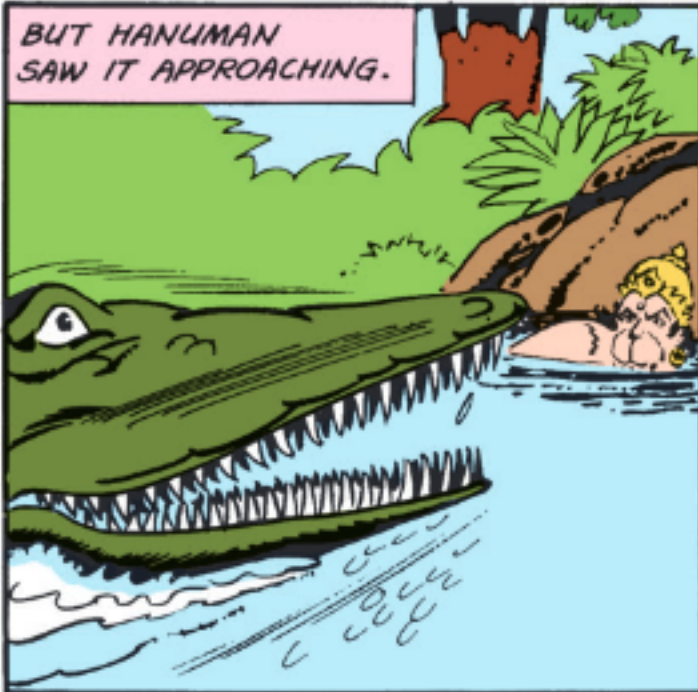




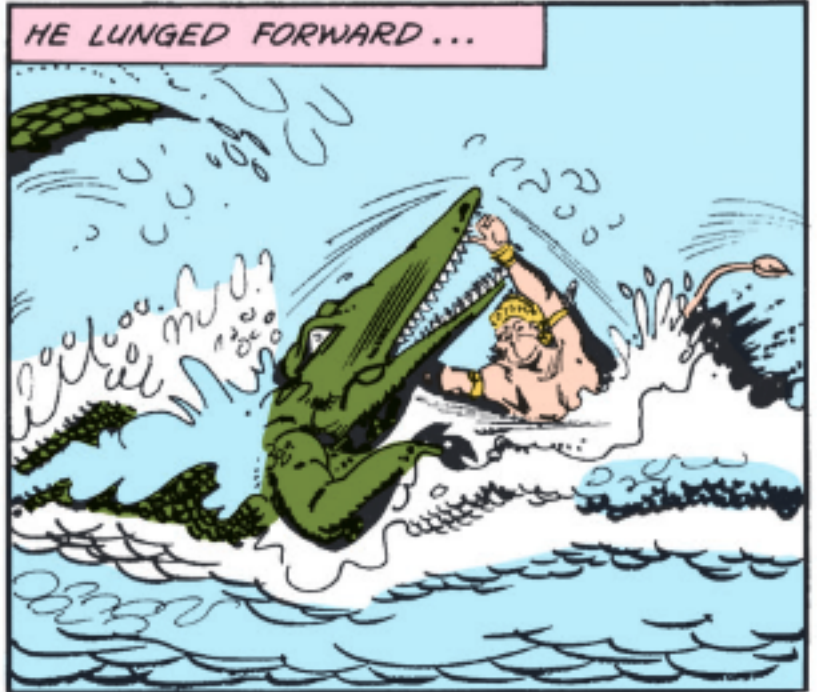
IT MOVED FORWARD SILENTLY AND SWIFTLY.



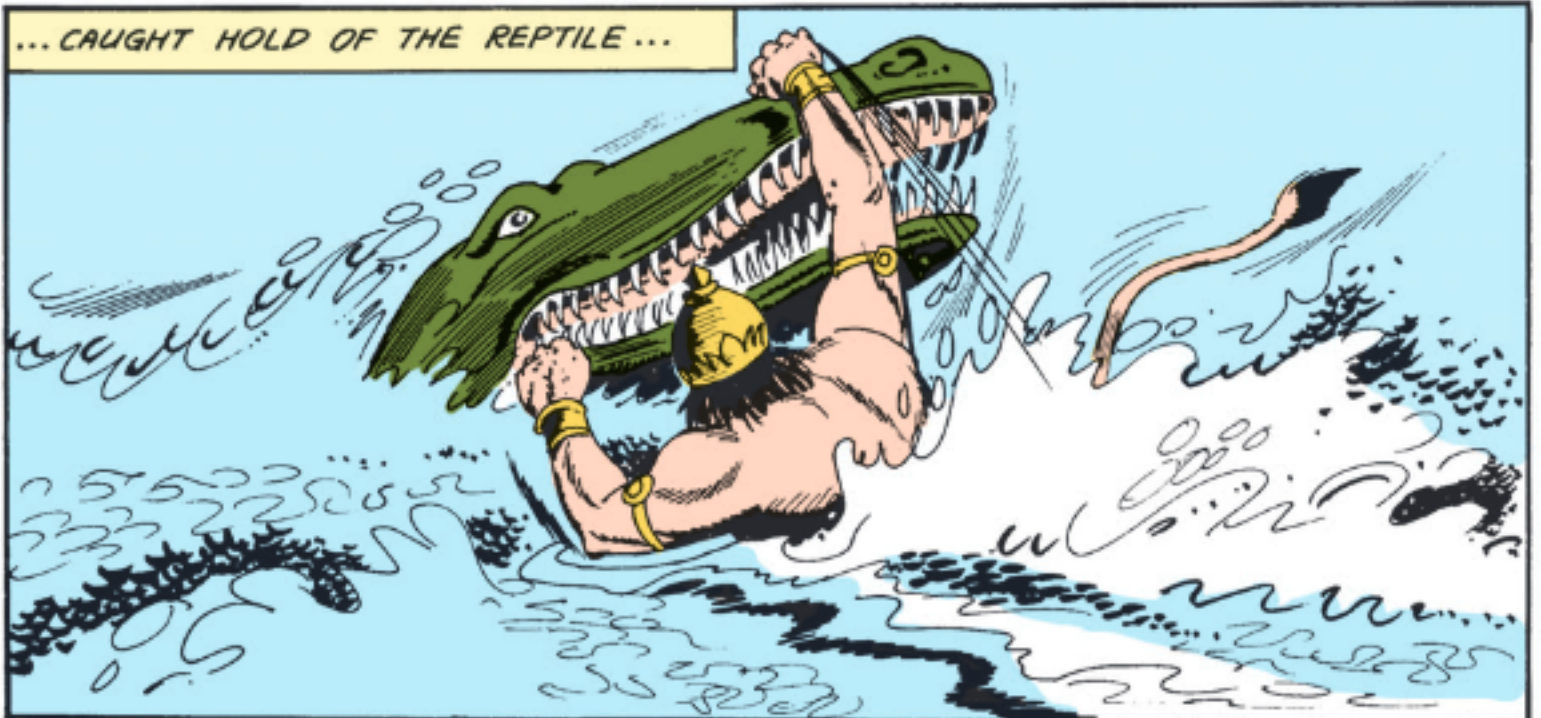
BUT HANUMAN SAW IT APPROACHING.



HE LUNGED FORWARD ...

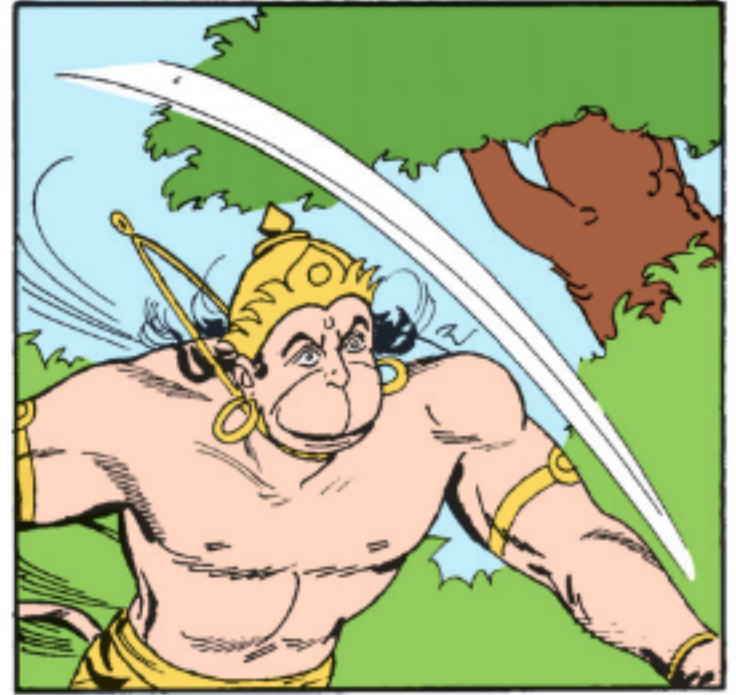
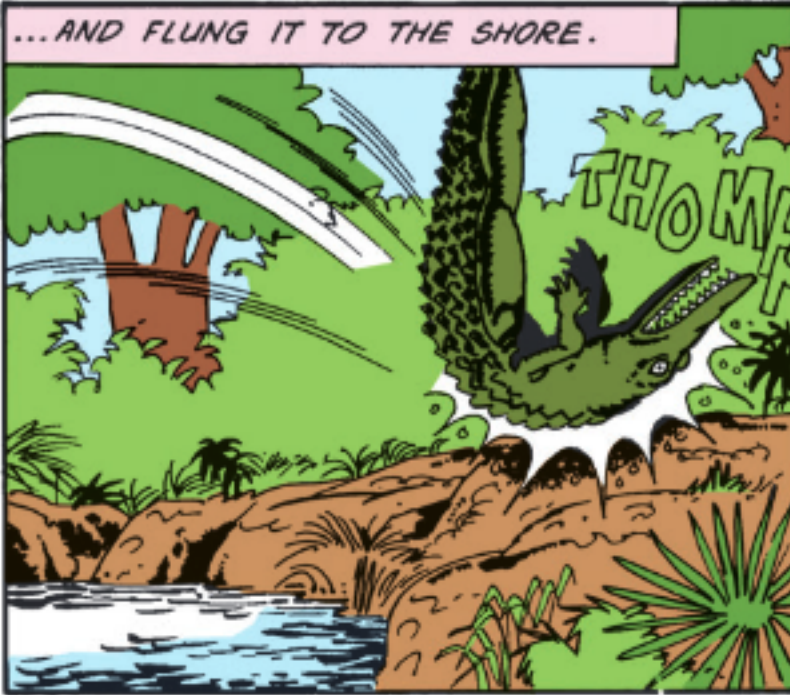


... CAUGHT HOLD OF THE REPTILE ...





...AND FLUNG IT TO THE SHORE.



THEN HE POUNCED ON IT AND TORE OPEN ITS BREAST.



AS HE STEPPED AWAY FROM ITS CARCASS—



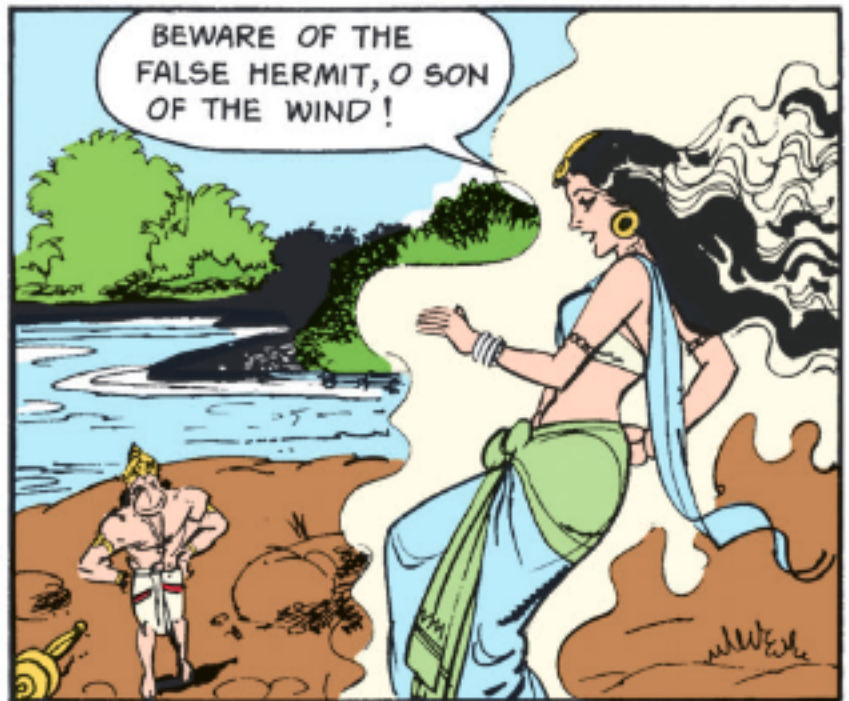
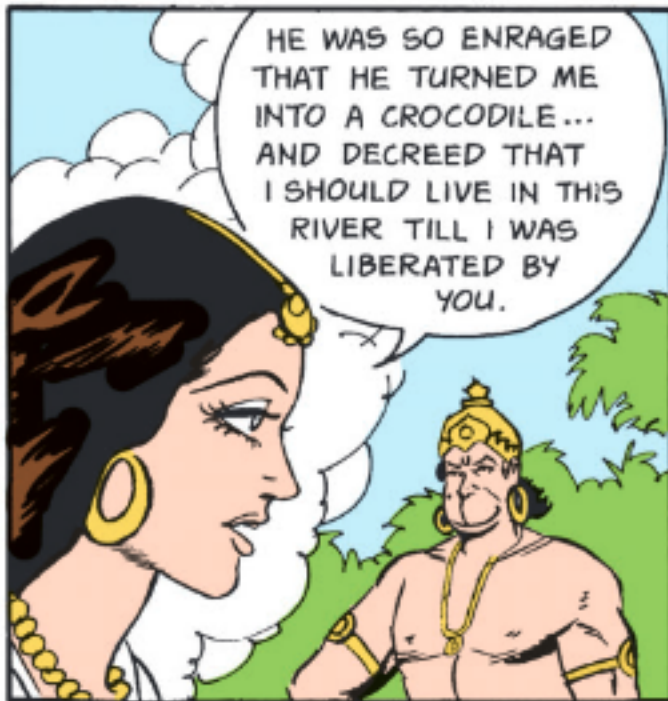
I AM A CELESTIAL DANCER.



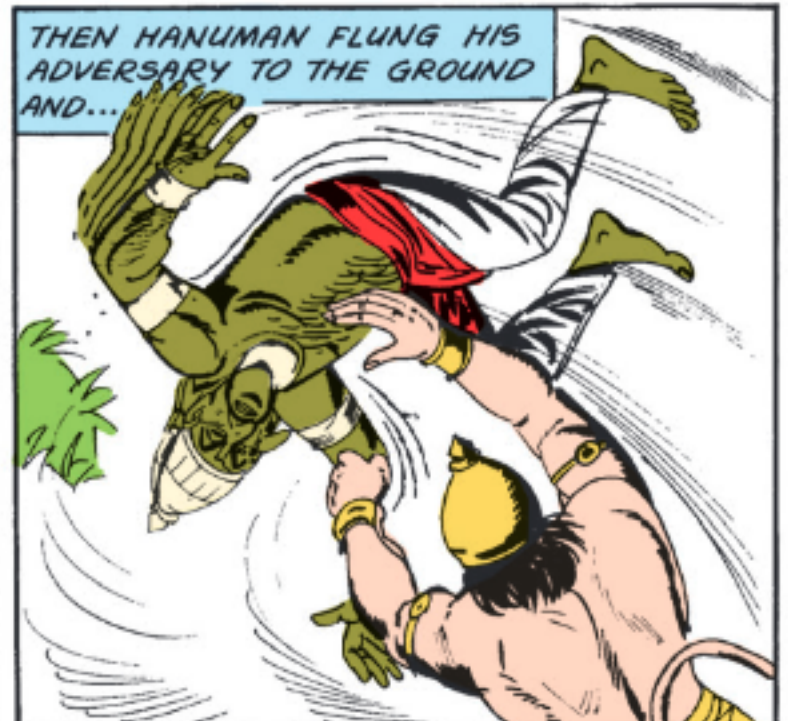
ONCE WHEN I WAS DANCING, MY FOOT ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED THE PERSON OF INDRA.





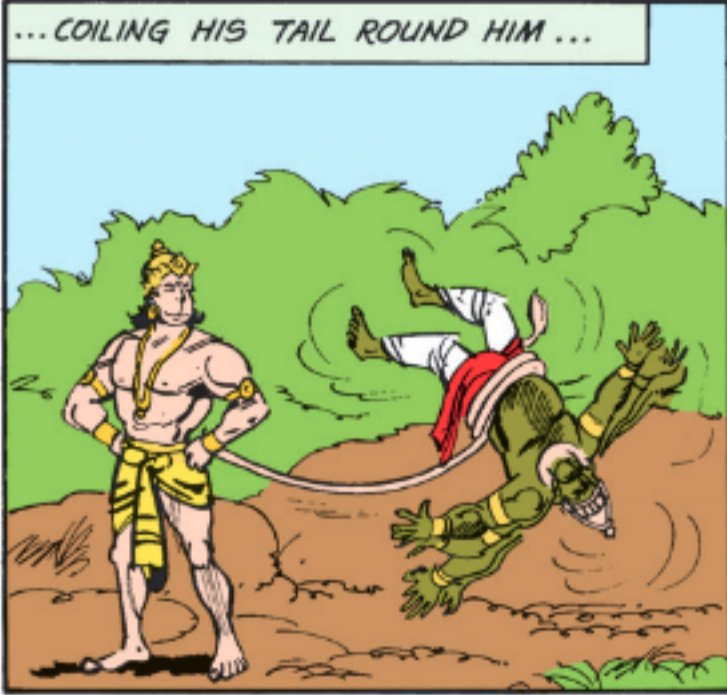




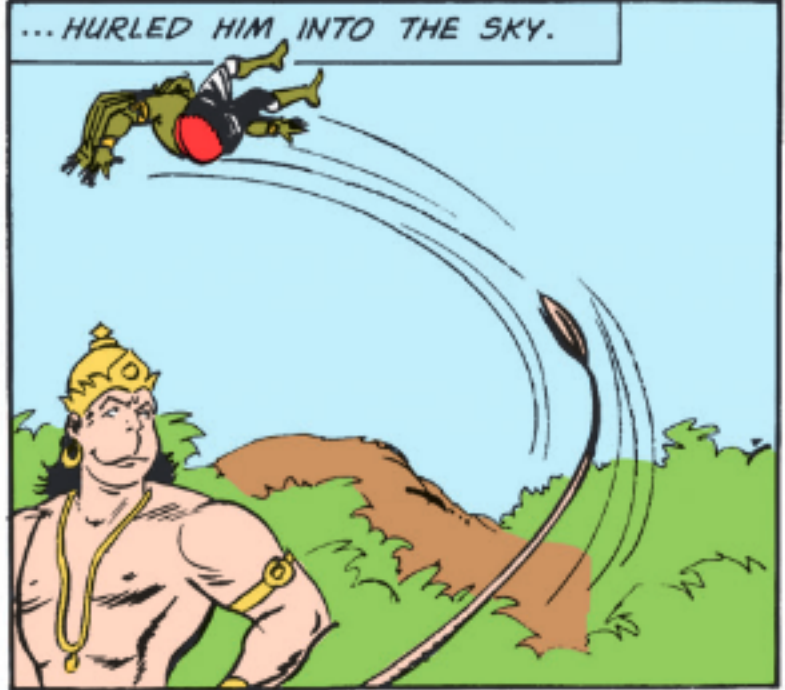




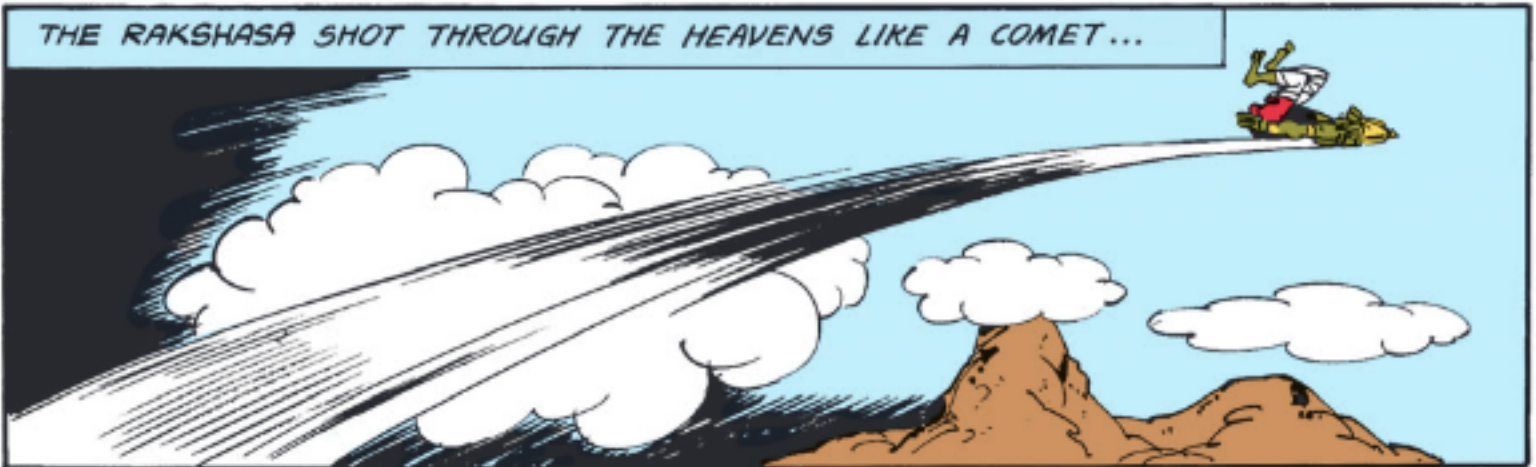
...COILING HIS TAIL ROUND HIM ...



...HURLED HIM INTO THE SKY.



THE RAKSHASA SHOT THROUGH THE HEAVENS LIKE A COMET...



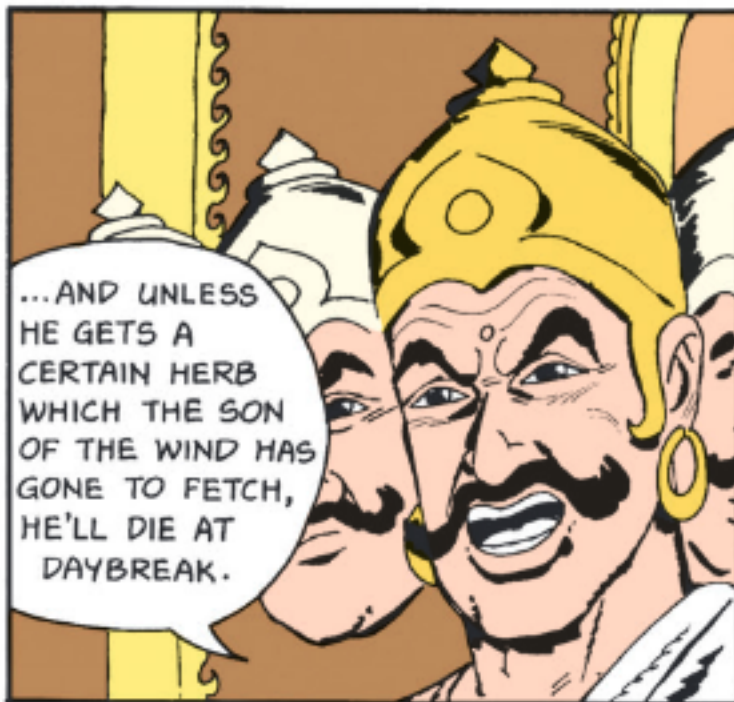
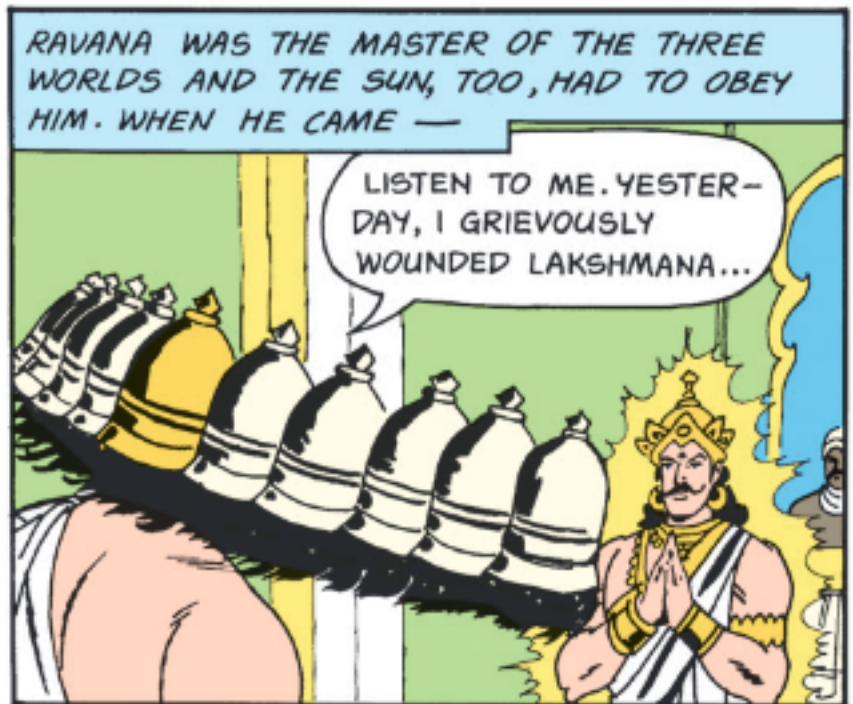
...AND LANDED...



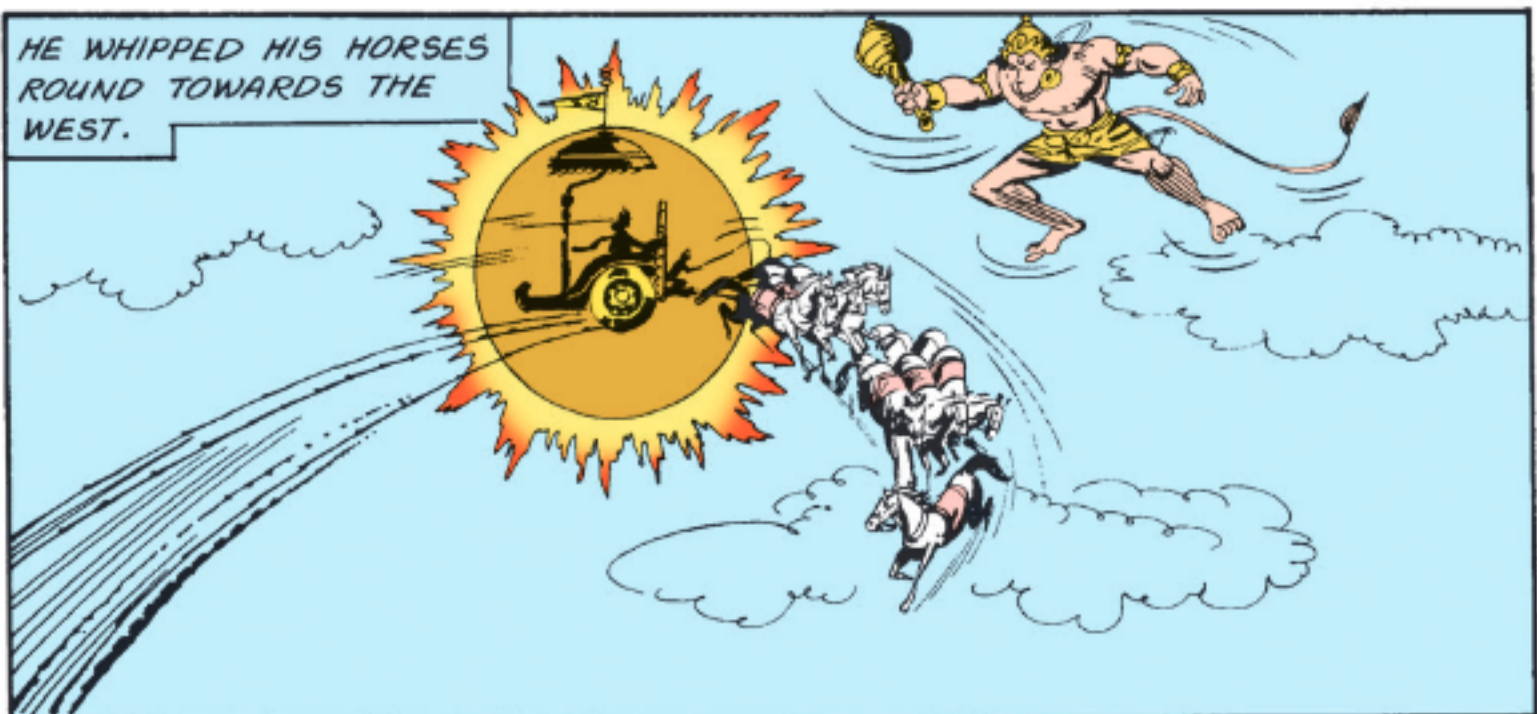
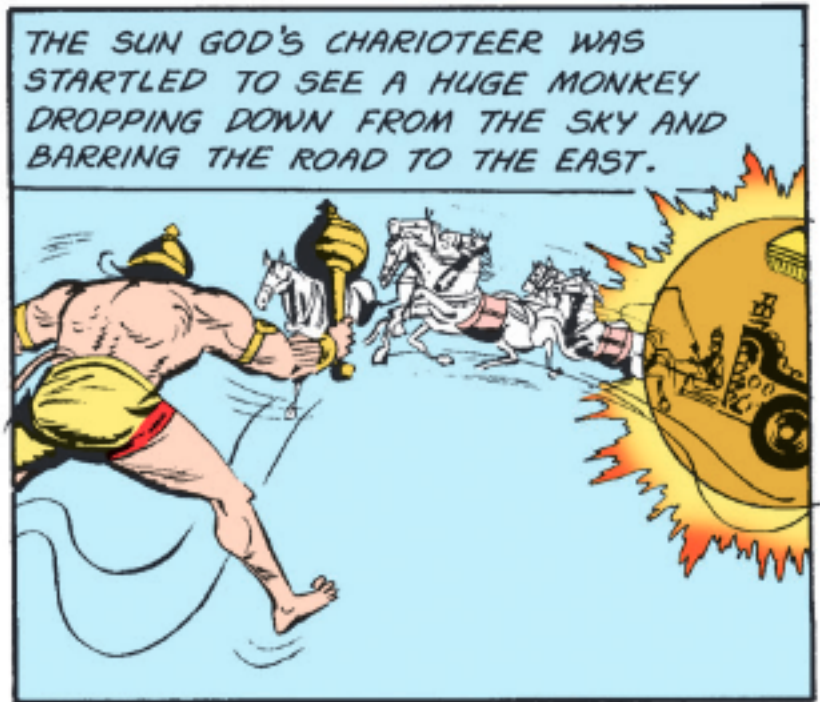
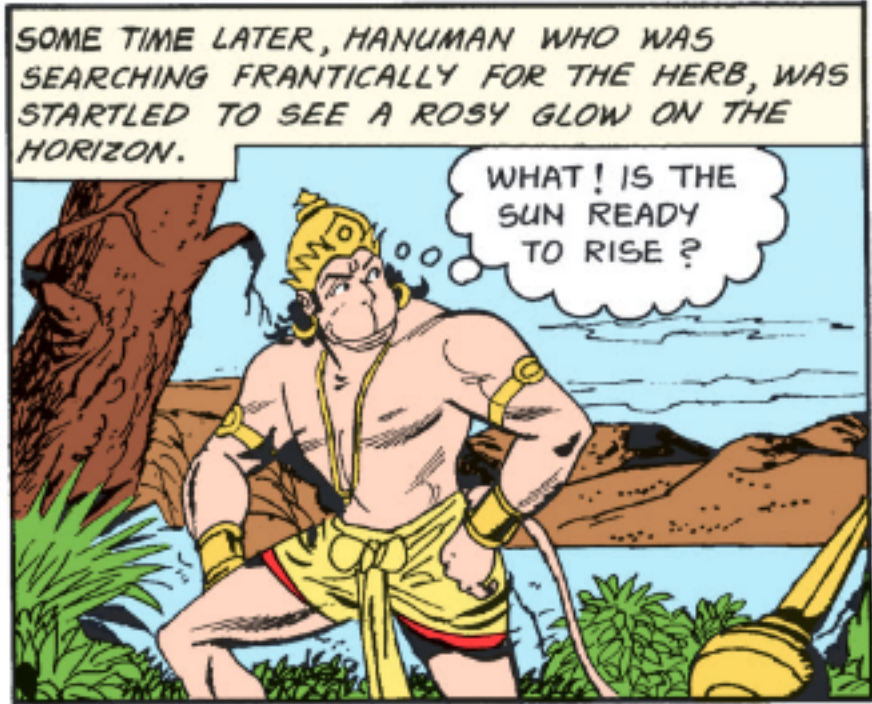
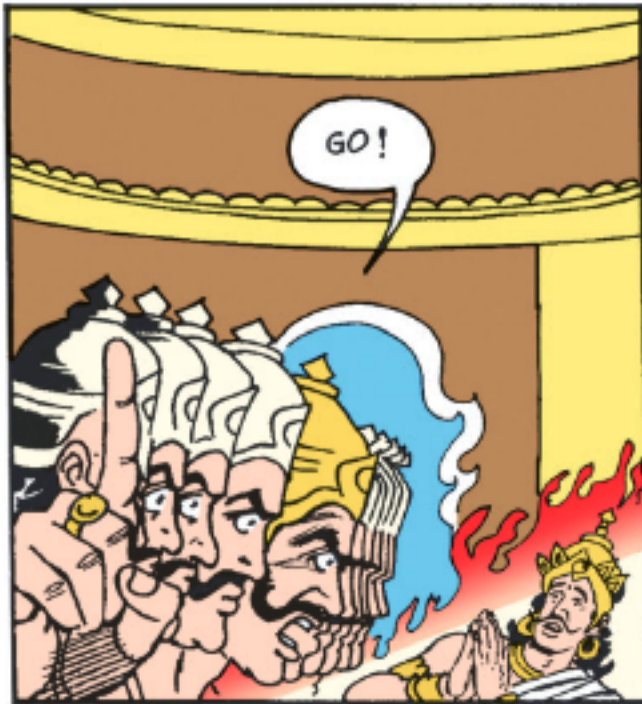
...IN LANKA, AT RAVANA'S COURT.





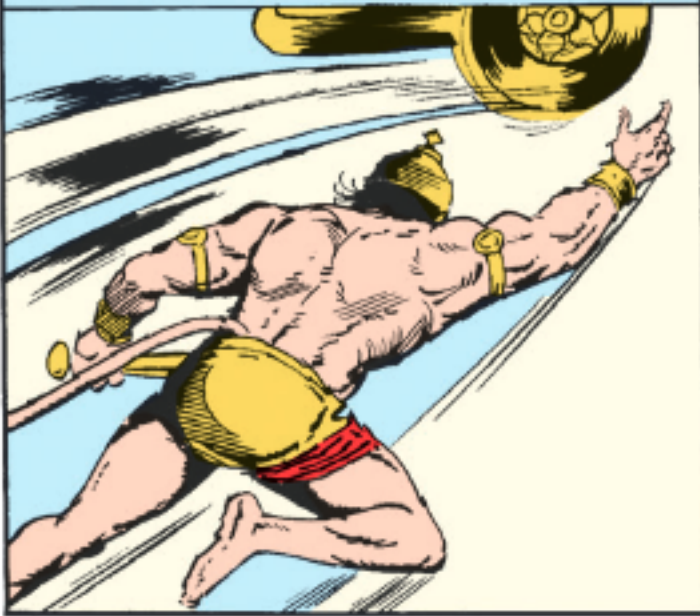




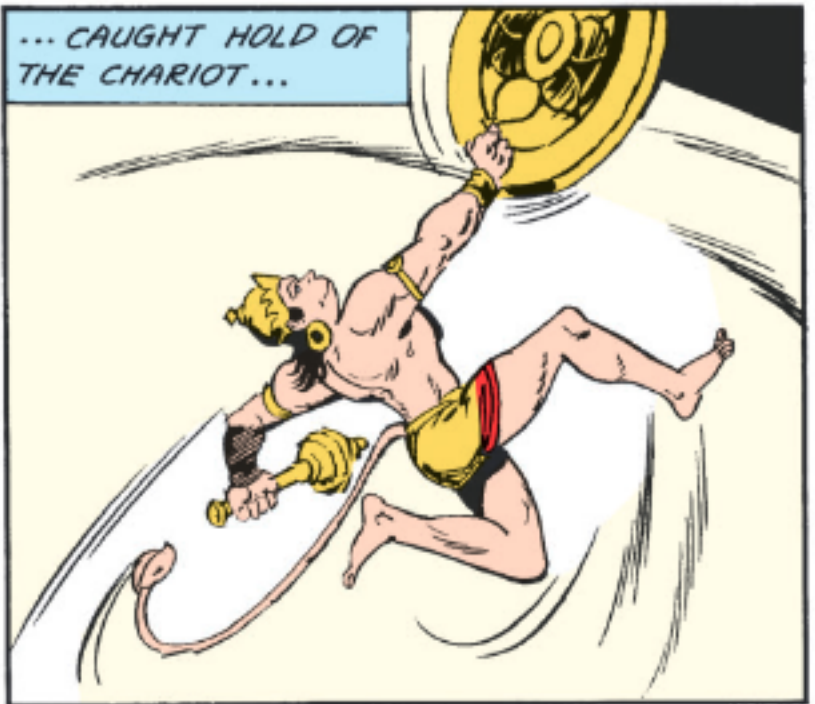




BUT HANUMAN WAS TOO QUICK FOR HIM. HE DARTED FORWARD ...



... CAUGHT HOLD OF THE CHARIOT ...

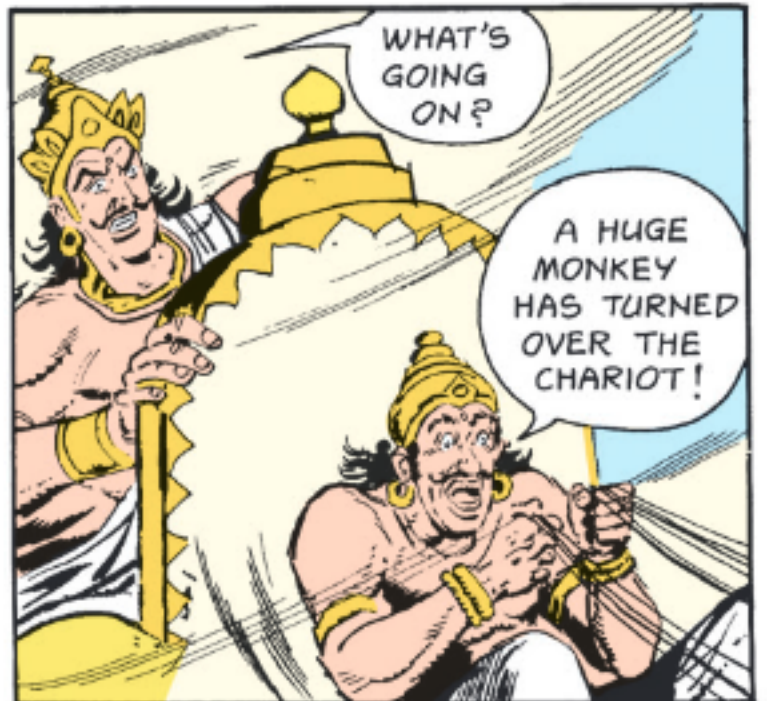


... AND BEGAN TO WHIRL IT ROUND AND ROUND.



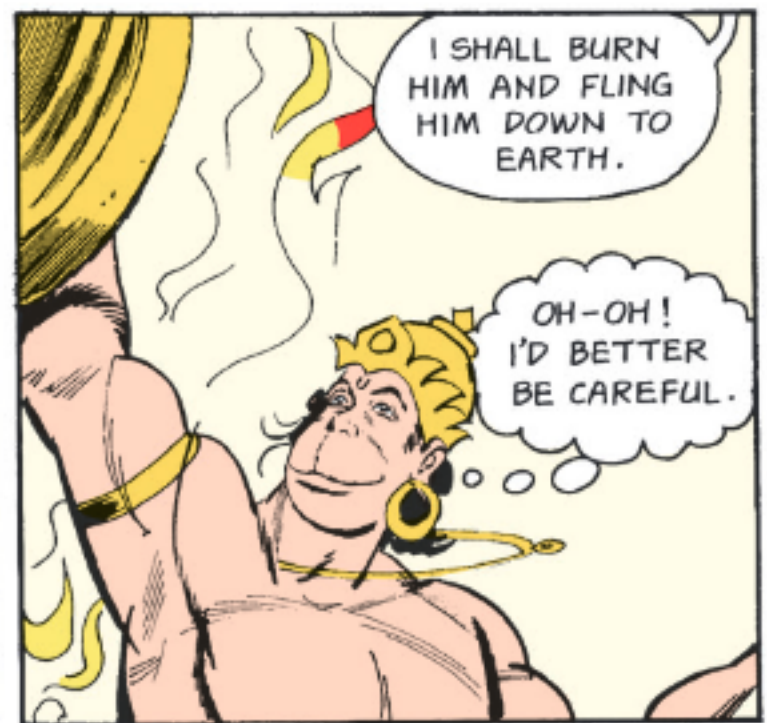
WHAT'S GOING ON?

A HUGE MONKEY HAS TURNED OVER THE CHARIOT!

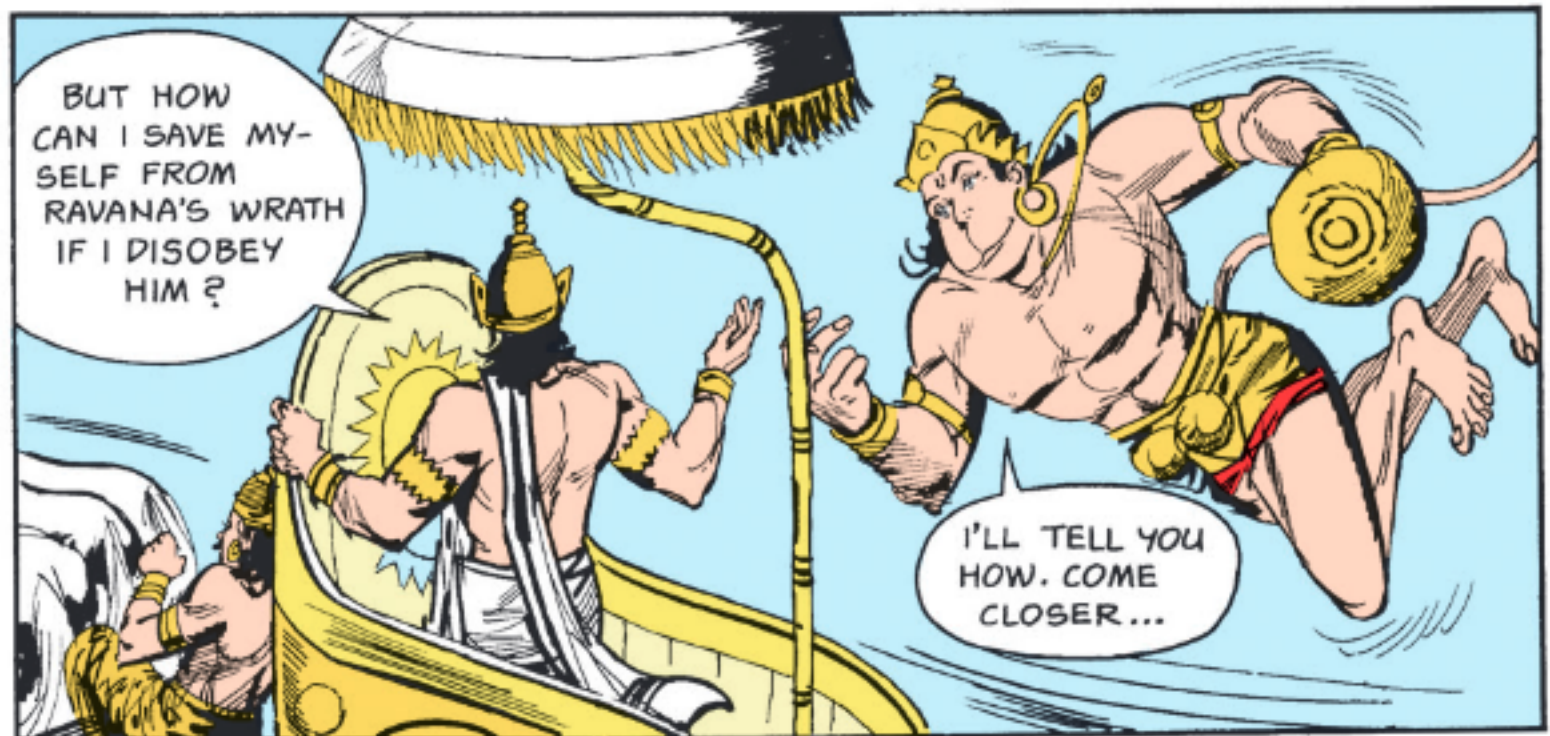
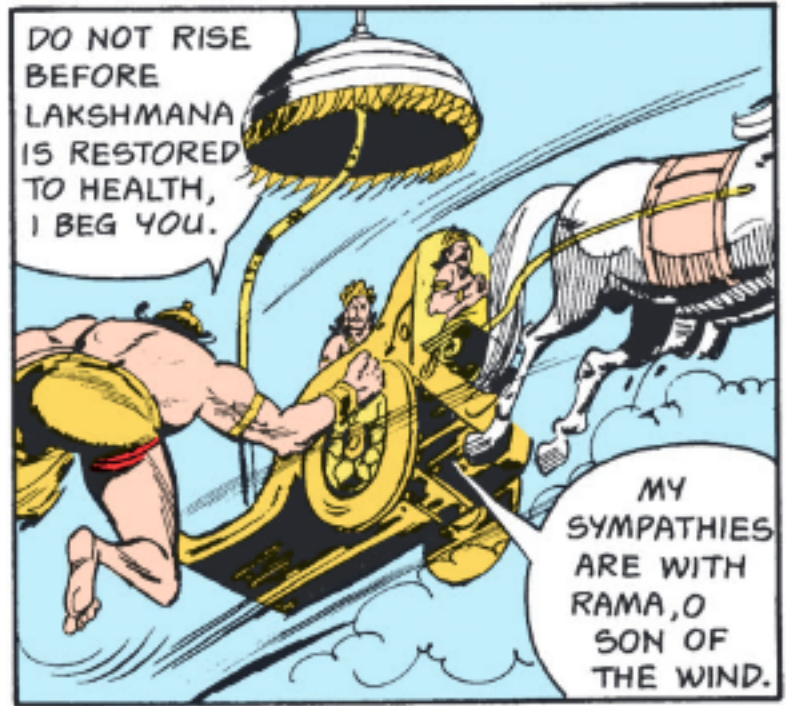
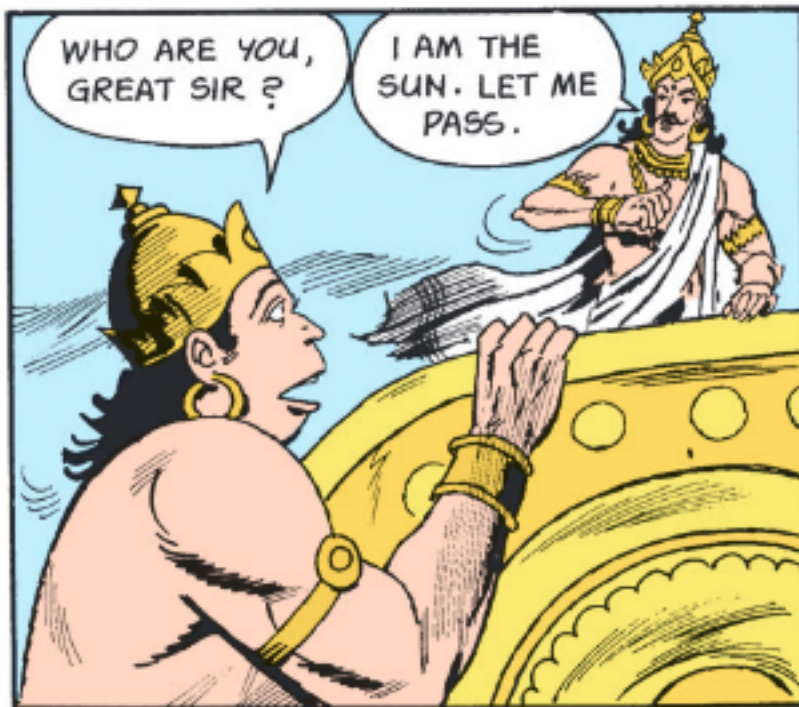


I SHALL BURN HIM AND FLING HIM DOWN TO EARTH.

OH-OH! I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.





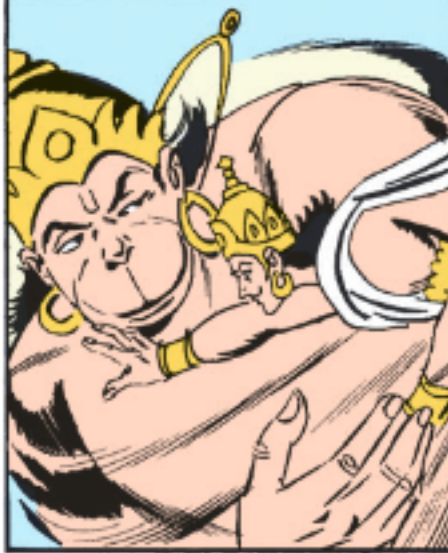




AS THE SUN LEANED FORWARD ...



... HANUMAN CAUGHT HIM IN A WARM EMBRACE.



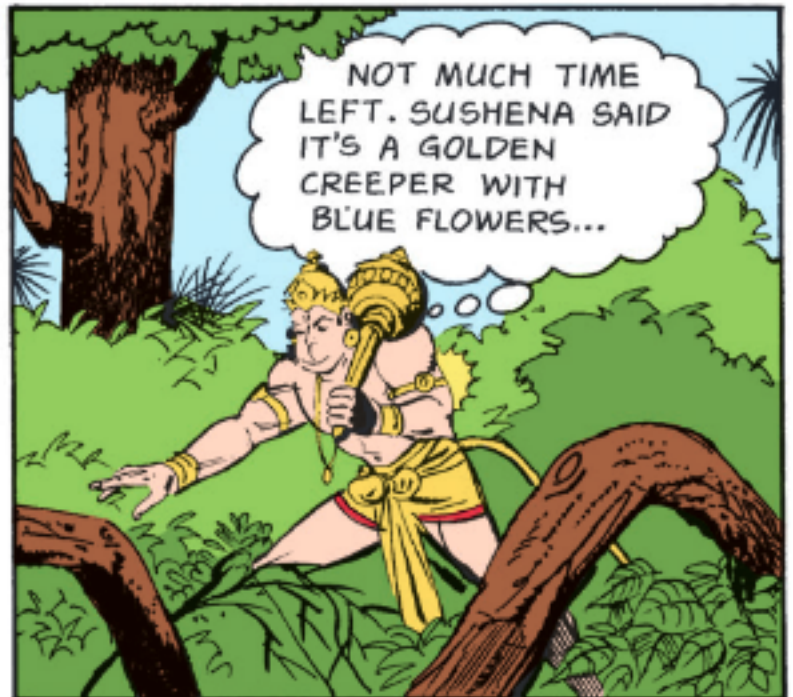
AND BEFORE HE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING BUNDLED HIM UNDER HIS ARM.



THEN HE RUSHED BACK TO GANDHAMADANA.



NOT MUCH TIME LEFT. SUSHENA SAID IT'S A GOLDEN CREEPER WITH BLUE FLOWERS...

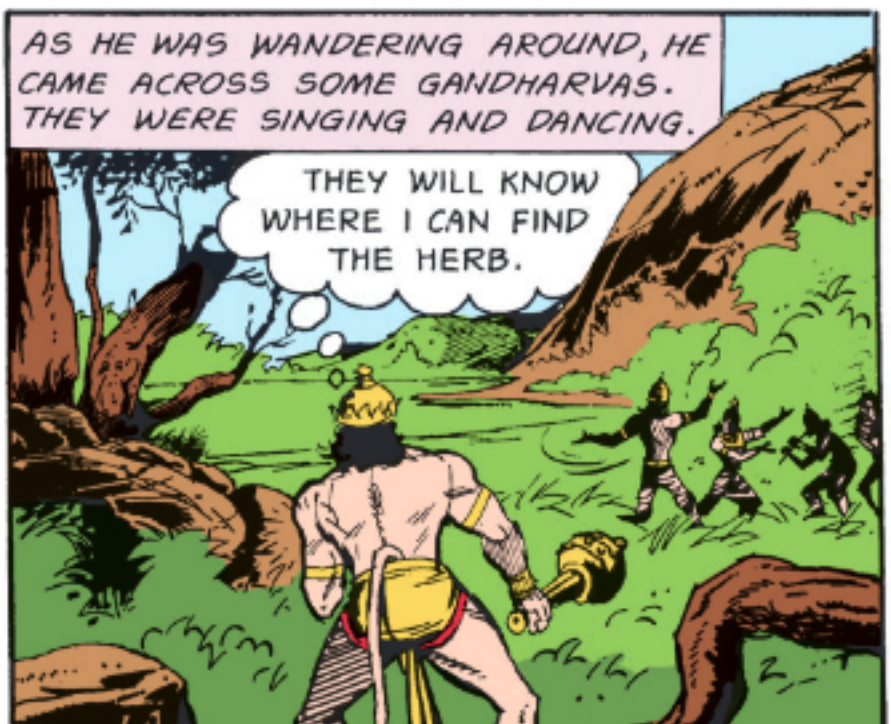


... BUT I CAN'T SEE ANY SUCH PLANT HERE.

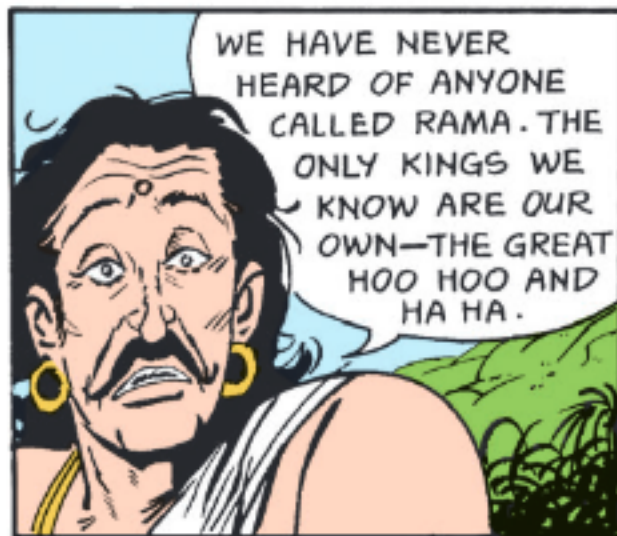
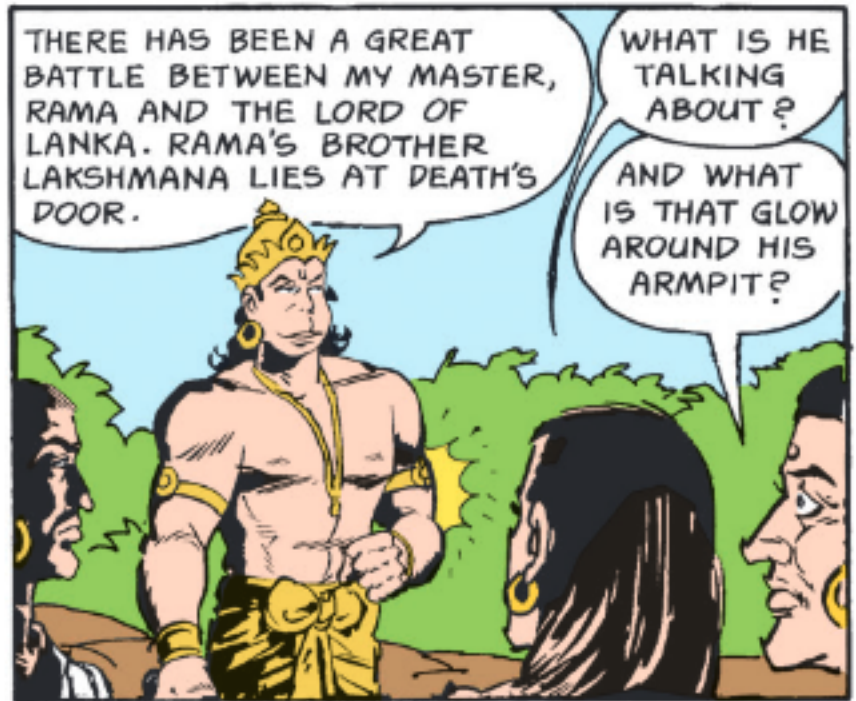
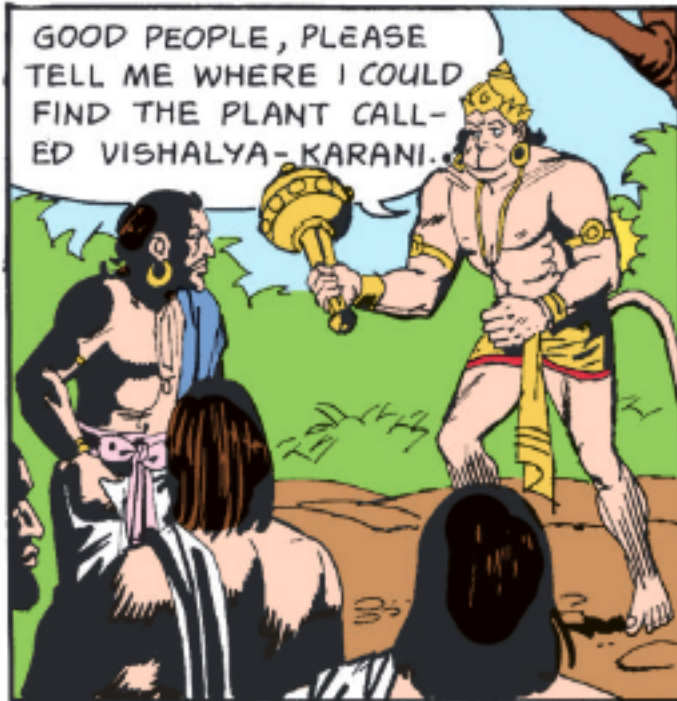


AS HE WAS WANDERING AROUND, HE CAME ACROSS SOME GANDHARVAS. THEY WERE SINGING AND DANCING.

THEY WILL KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE HERB.









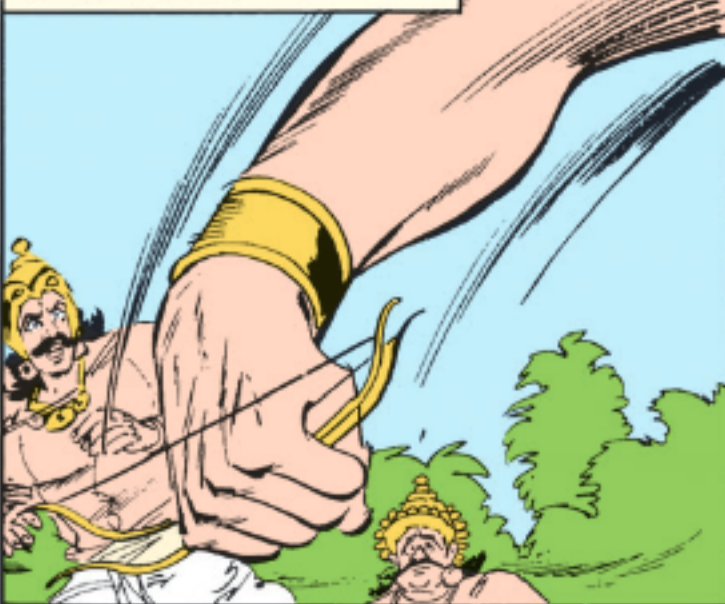
... AND STRUCK BACK AT HIS TORMENTORS.



PRESENTLY, THE KINGS OF THE LAND, HOO HOO AND HA HA CAME TO BATTLE WITH HIM.



BUT HANUMAN PULLED THEIR BOWS AWAY FROM THEM...



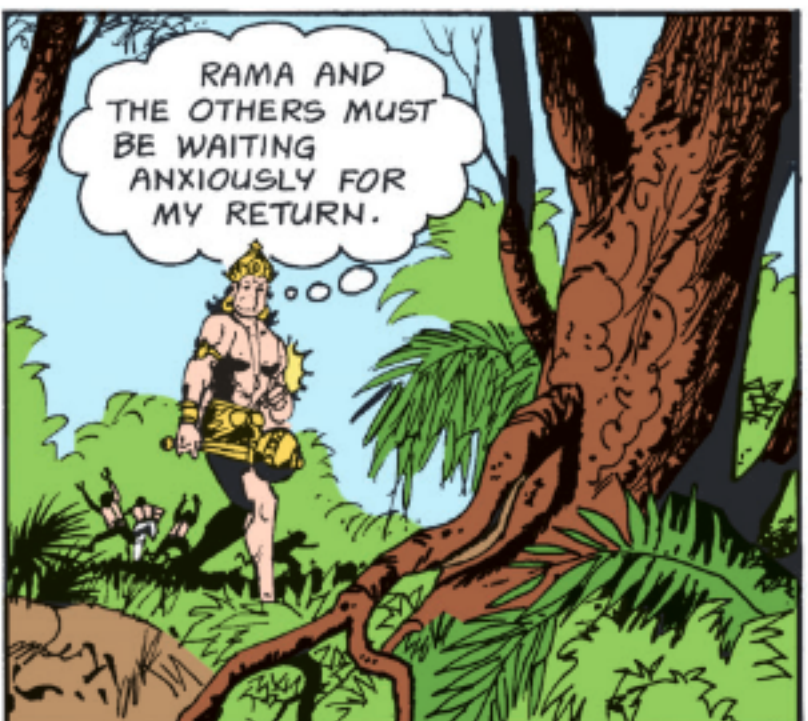
... AND BROKE THEM.



PANDEMONIUM BROKE OUT AMONG THE GANDHARVAS AND HANUMAN WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL IF HE HAD NOT SUDDENLY REMEMBERED HIS REASON FOR BEING THERE.



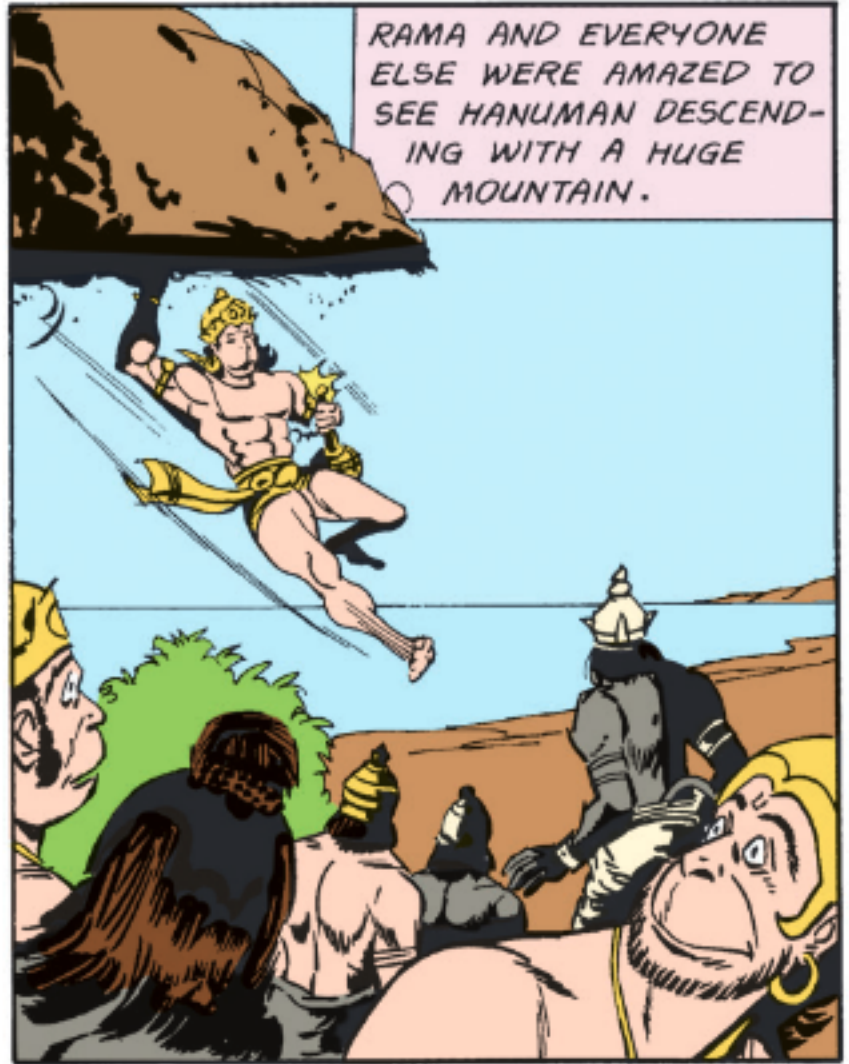
RAMA AND THE OTHERS MUST BE WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR MY RETURN.











LATER, WHEN HE HAD LOWERED HIS LOAD, AND EXPLAINED HIS DIFFICULTY IN FINDING THE HERB, SUSHENA HIMSELF WENT UP WITH HIM AND GATHERED THE PLANTS HE WANTED.



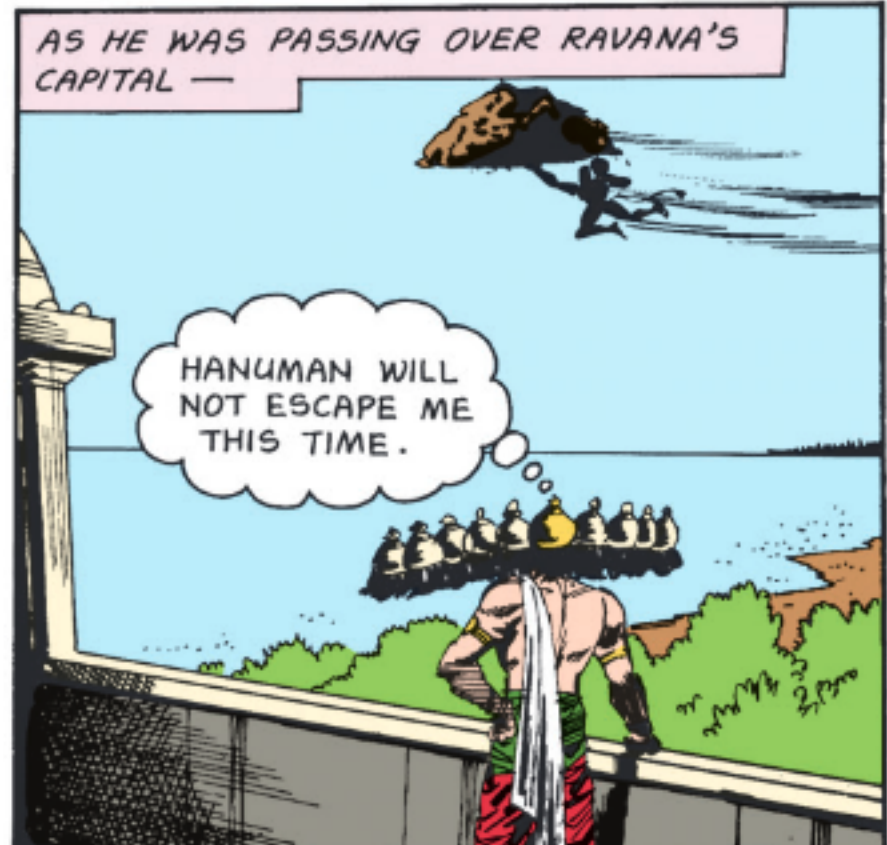
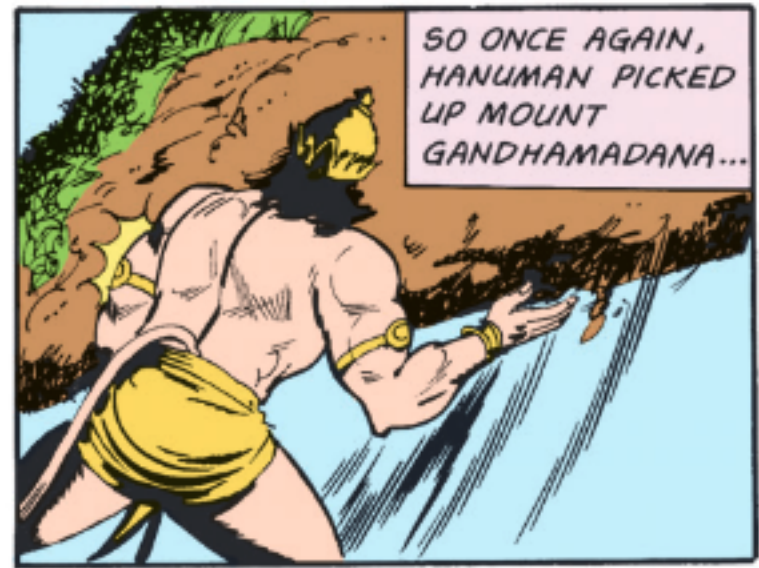
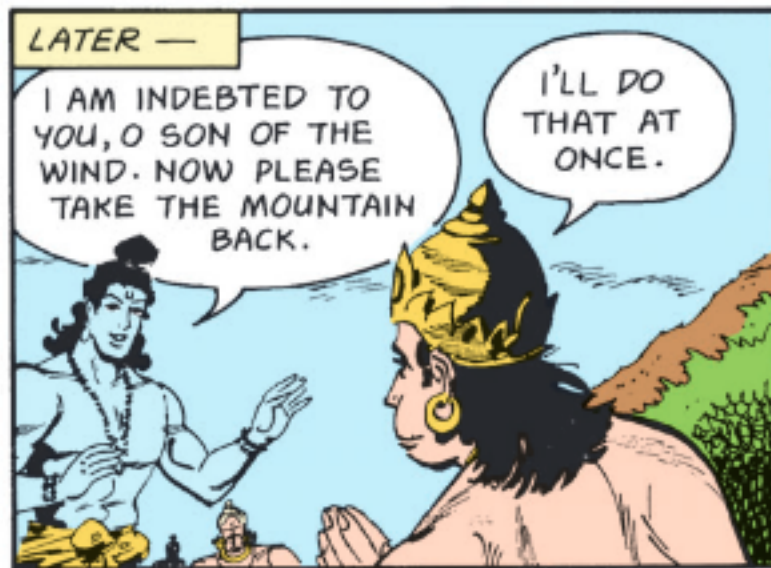
THEN THE PHYSICIAN WENT BACK TO THE CAMP, MADE A PASTE OUT OF THE HERBS...



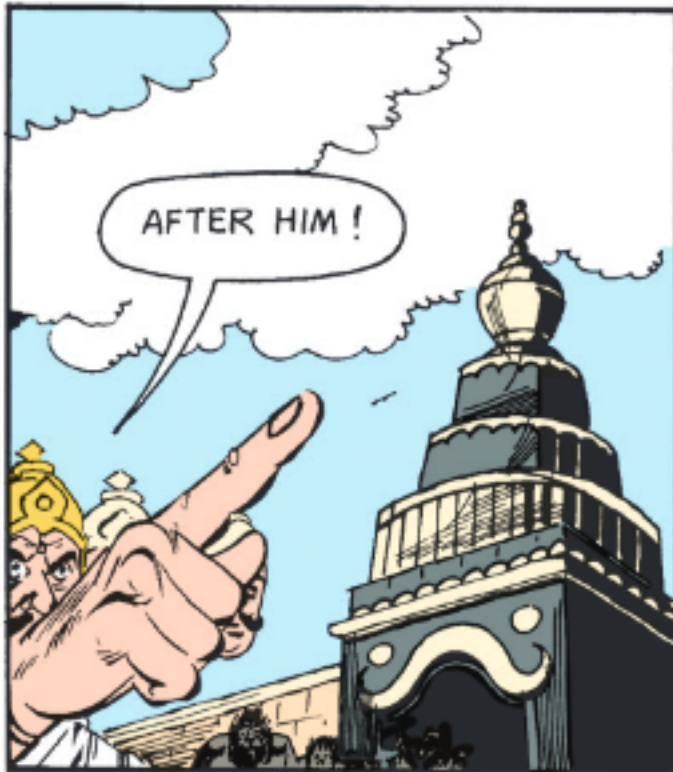
...AND HELD IT TO LAKSHMANA'S NOSE.



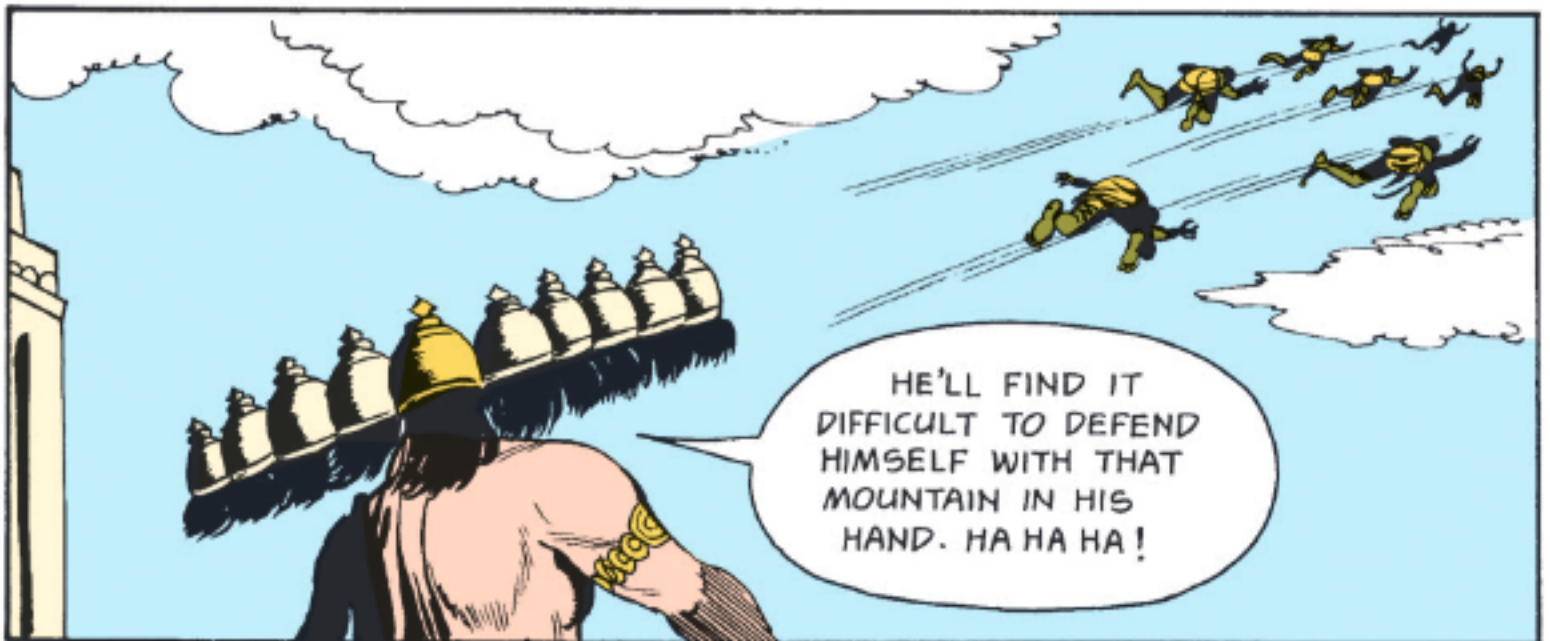








SEVEN HUGE LION-FACED RAKSHASAS  
TOOK OFF AFTER HANUMAN.



THE SEVEN RAKSHASAS SURROUNDED HANUMAN.





BUT AS THEY MOVED CLOSER, HE  
SUDDENLY SHOT OUT HIS TAIL ...



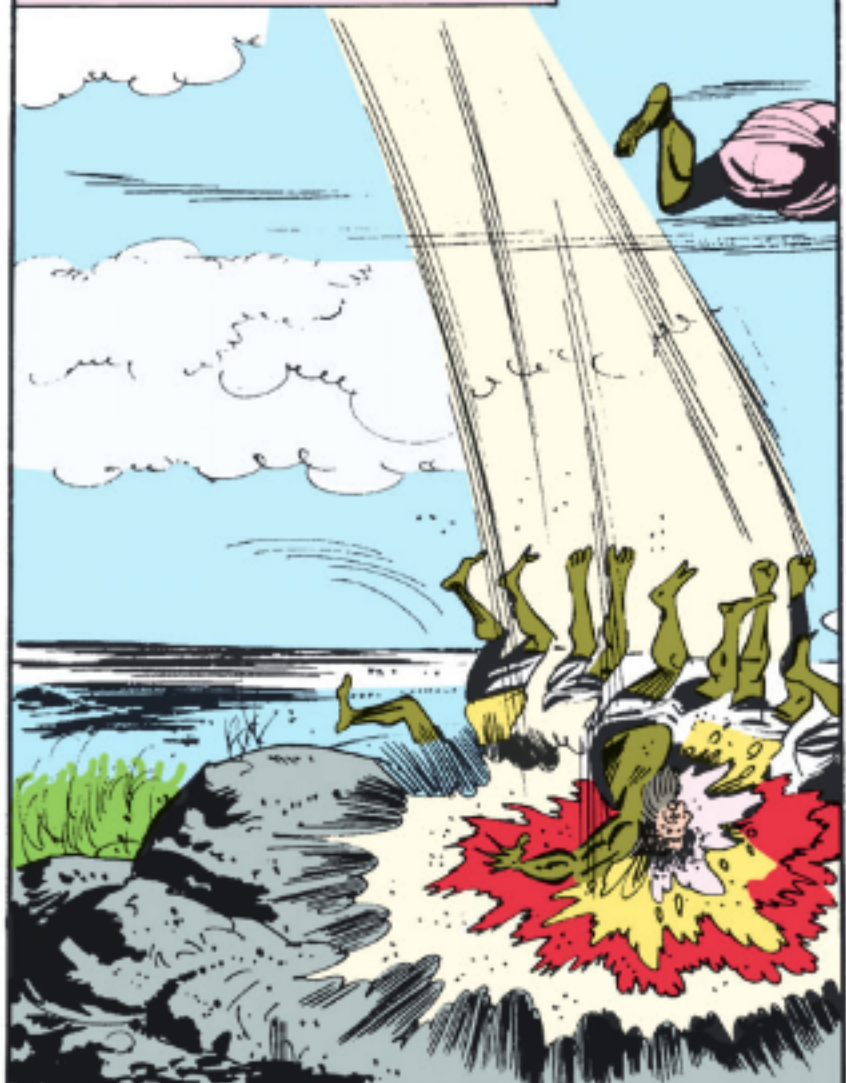
...AND BEFORE THEY KNEW WHAT  
WAS HAPPENING, COILED IT ROUND  
SIX OF THEM.



THEN RAISING HIS TAIL HIGH UP...



...HE FLUNG THEM DOWN.





THE SURVIVING RAKSHASA FLED  
IN TERROR.



HE PROVED TOO STRONG  
FOR US, O LORD OF LANKA.  
I ESCAPED, BUT THE  
OTHERS ARE DEAD.



THIS IS  
INCREDIBLE !

HE IS MORE FORMIDABLE  
THAN I THOUGHT.



HANUMAN CONTINUED ON HIS WAY  
AND ...



... RESTORED THE MOUNTAIN TO  
ITS ORIGINAL PLACE.



BEFORE I GO, I MUST  
HEAL THE GANDHARVAS  
I WOUNDED DURING  
OUR BATTLE.



HE CRUSHED SOME LEAVES OF THE PLANT WHICH HAD HEALED LAKSHMANA ...



... DROPPED THEM INTO WATER ...



... AND SPRINKLED THE WATER OVER THE GANDHARVAS.



ONE BY ONE THE GANDHARVAS BEGAN TO SIT UP.



LOOK, THERE'S THE MONKEY WHO ATTACKED US!

BEAT HIM!



THE GANDHARVAS RUSHED AT HANUMAN.

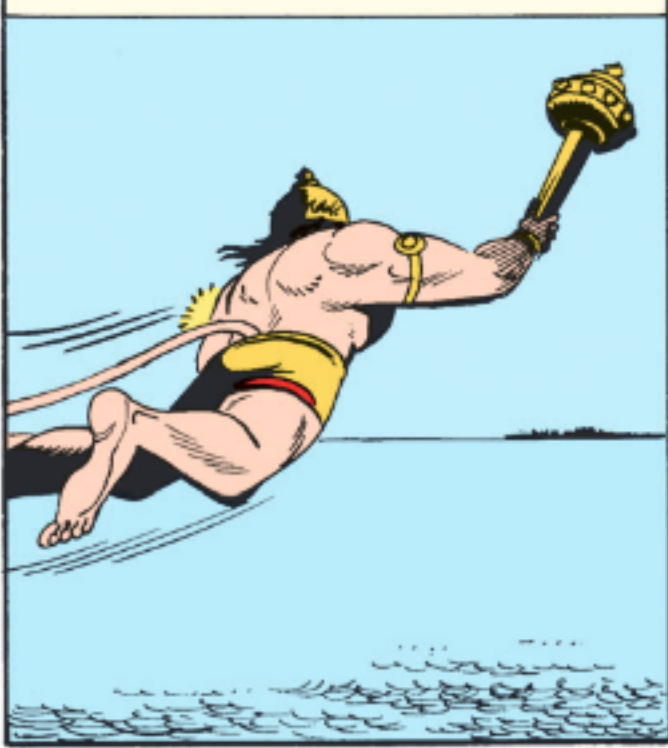
HANUMAN DID NOT WAIT TO FIGHT THEM.



HE LEAPT UP...

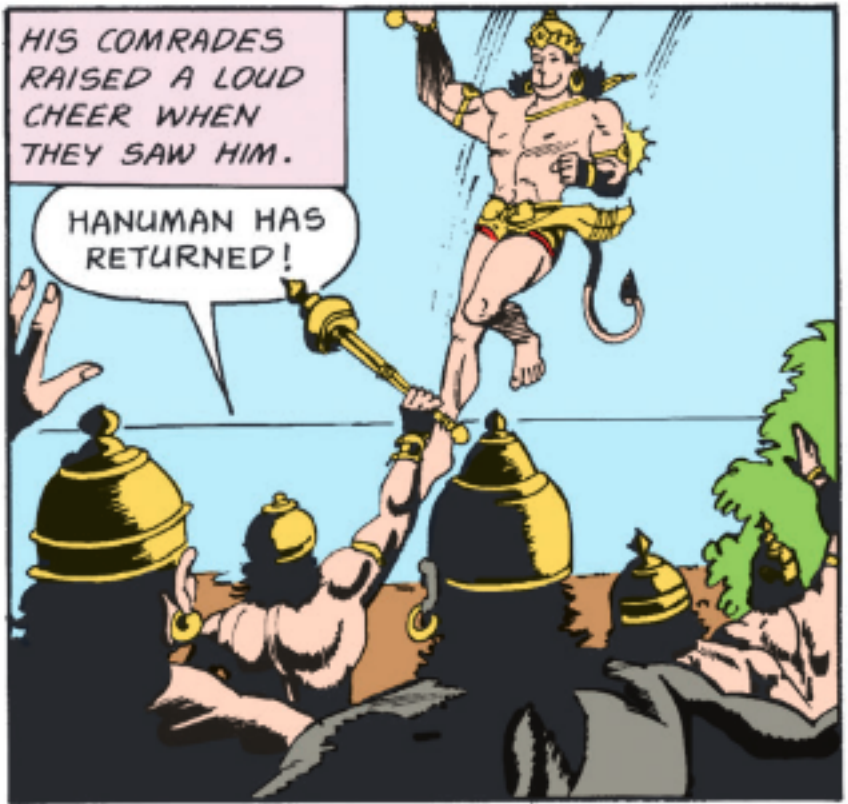


... AND SPED BACK TO LANKA .



HIS COMRADES  
RAISED A LOUD  
CHEER WHEN  
THEY SAW HIM.

HANUMAN HAS  
RETURNED!



AS HANUMAN  
SALUTED RAMA—

WHAT IS THAT SHINING  
UNDER YOUR ARM, SON  
OF THE WIND?



OH, THAT IS THE  
SUN. RAVANA  
HAD ORDERED HIM  
TO RISE BEFORE  
THE APPOINTED  
HOUR.



SO I HAD TO  
HOLD HIM  
PRISONER.

HOW  
EXTRAORDINARY!  
LET HIM GO  
AT ONCE.





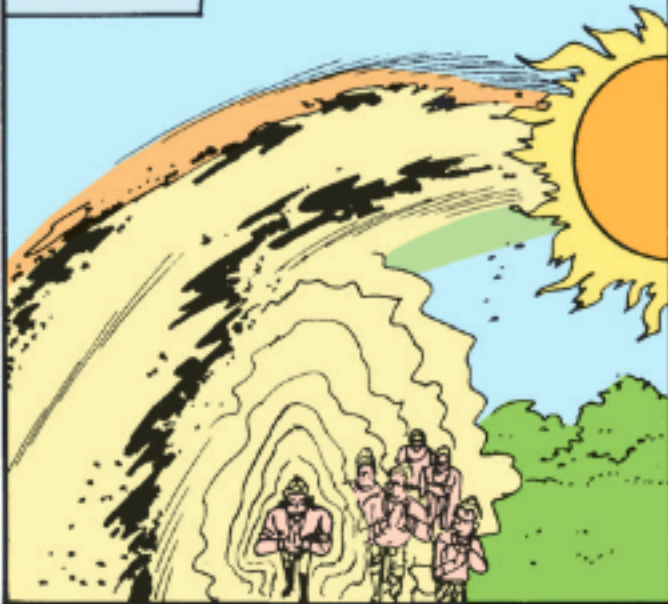
HANUMAN LIFTED HIS ARM AND LET THE SUN GO.



THEN THEY ALL PAID HOMAGE TO THE SUN GOD AND HE DEPARTED...



...TO RISE FROM HIS USUAL PLACE.



YOU HAVE SAVED LAKSHMANA'S LIFE, HANUMAN.



I AM EVER INDEBTED TO YOU.



VICTORY TO HANUMAN!





# MAHI





# MAHI

MAHI\* WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE SATPURA HILLS. SHE WAS A STRONG AND BRAVE PRINCESS.



\*ALSO THE PERSONIFICATION OF A RIVER  
THAT FLOWS IN WESTERN INDIA



SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH THE SEA AND LONGED TO MARRY THE SEA GOD.

I MUST SEEK MY FATHER'S BLESSINGS FOR THIS MARRIAGE.

HOWEVER -

NO MAHI, THE SEA GOD WON'T BE A SUITABLE HUSBAND FOR YOU.

OH, FATHER! I WISH YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT I NEED TO GO TO THE SEA.

MAHI DID NOT LOSE HEART.

I'LL GO TO THE SEA GOD AND TELL HIM OF MY HEART'S DESIRE. HE'LL ACCEPT ME.



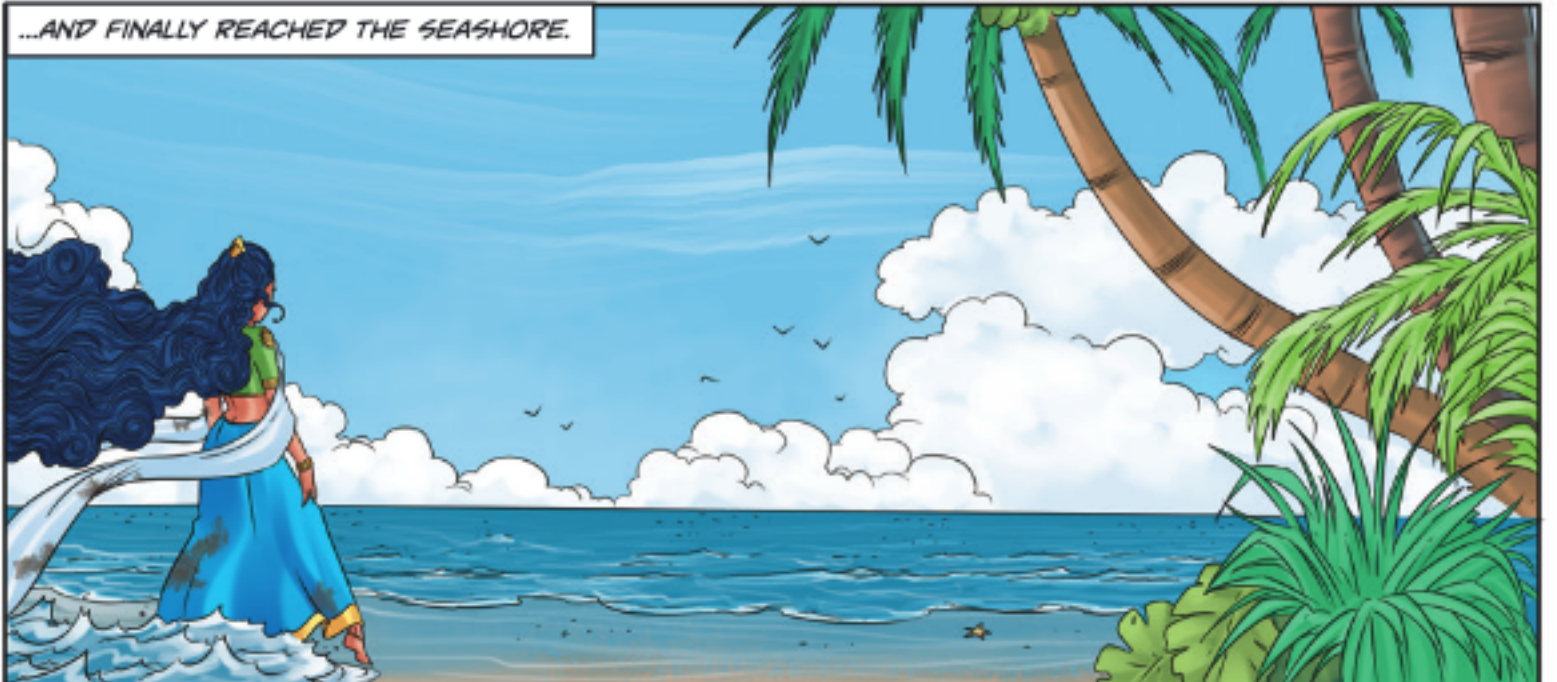
MAHI TRAVELLED OVER ROCKY PATHS  
AND THROUGH DENSE FORESTS...



...PAST TRADING PORTS AND BUSY TOWNS...



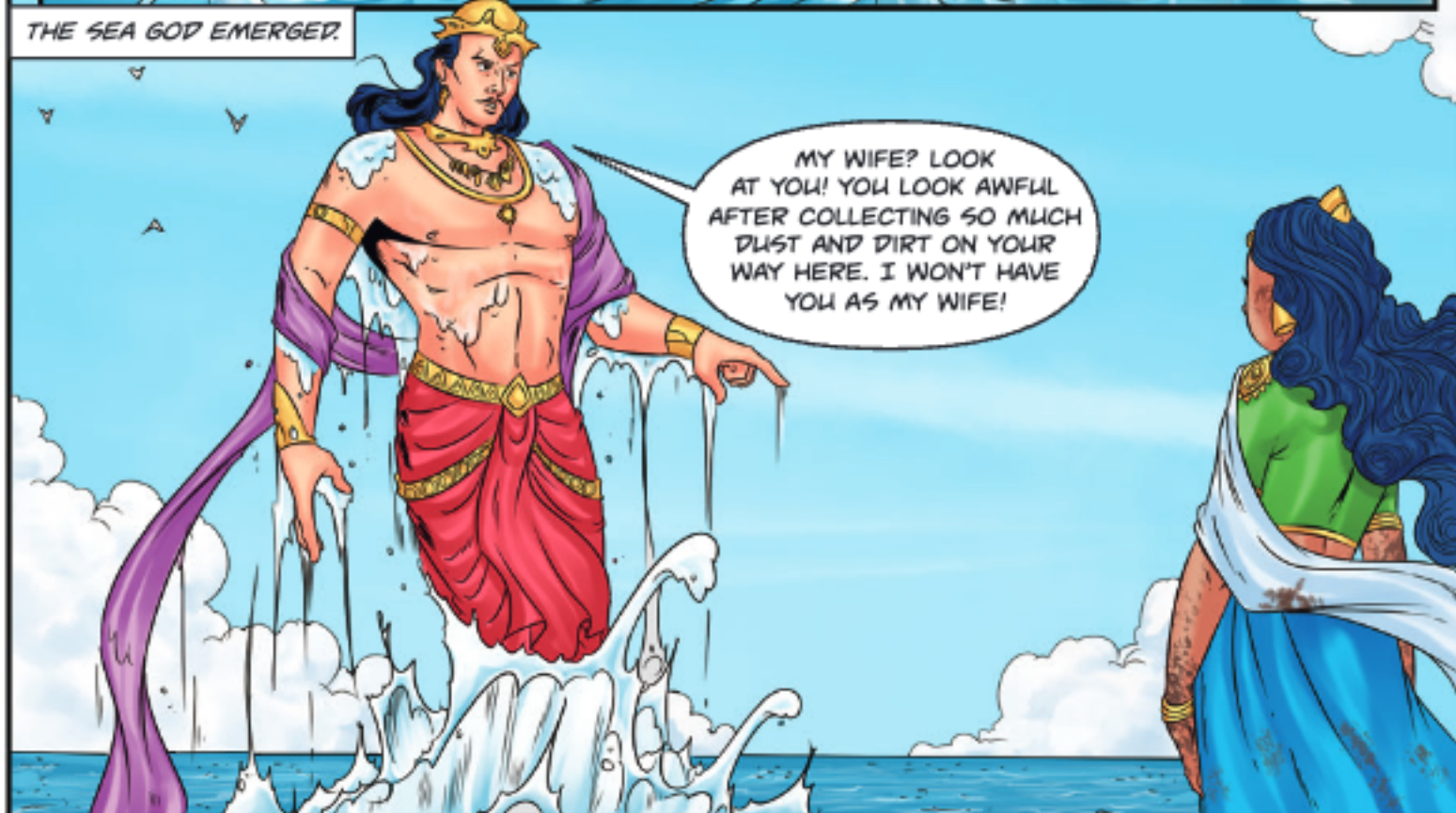
...AND FINALLY REACHED THE SEASHORE.







THE SEA GOD EMERGED.





BACK IN HER FATHER'S HOUSE -

WHAT  
HAPPENED,  
MAHI?

MAHI TOLD HER FATHER  
WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

HE CALLED  
ME DIRTY AND  
SAID THAT HE  
WOULD NEVER  
MARRY ME.

I TOLD YOU THAT HE  
WASN'T SUITED FOR  
YOU. WHAT DO YOU  
WANT TO DO NOW,  
MY CHILD?

I'M  
GOING BACK  
TO THE SEA BUT  
THIS TIME WITH  
YOUR ARMY  
OF ROCKS AND  
BOULDERS.



THE ARMY OF ROCKS AND BOULDERS, LED BY MAHI, SET OFF TO THE SEASHORE.



WHEN SHE REACHED -



O LORD OF THE SEA! I HAVE BROUGHT MY ARMY AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO A BATTLE. YOU CAN THEN DECIDE IF I'M WORTHY TO BE YOUR WIFE!

MAHI LAUNCHED HER ATTACK.





SOON, THE SEA GOD APPEARED BEFORE HER.

MAHI, STOP! YOU ARE BRAVE AND COURAGEOUS. I'M SORRY IF I CAUSED YOU PAIN. WILL YOU ACCEPT ME AS YOUR HUSBAND?



YES, I WILL.

THE LOYAL ARMY OF ROCKS AND BOULDERS SETTLED IN THE RIVER FORMING THE RIVERBED. FINALLY, RIVER MAHI WAS UNITED WITH THE SEA.





# OCEAN STORIES

- Saraswati and Vadavagni • Churning of the Ocean • Matsya Avatar
- Varaha Avatar • Hanuman to the Rescue • Mahi

As a nation surrounded by the ocean on three sides, our legends and myths are full of stories where seas and oceans play a crucial part. Sometimes they are the mighty obstacle which can be overcome only by one who is worthy and sometimes they take the form of the great Ocean King that rivers dream of marrying.

On World Oceans Day, Amar Chitra Katha brings you Ocean Stories, a collection of stories about the ocean handpicked from our existing titles. Experience the capricious nature of the oceans through these stories.

